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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19613 SUNDAY, MAY 4, 1997 • NISAN 27, 5757 • 27 THU AL-HIJJAH 1417 NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

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## Ross to present new peace proposals

By HILLEL KUTTLER  
WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration is hopeful that the upcoming trip to the region by special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross will spur a resumption of negotiations, but cautioned that the Israeli-Palestinian gap remains wide.

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Renewing security cooperation, initiating final-status talks, and resuming discussions on implementing the interim agreements are the three components of the American package for salvaging the peace process, a senior US official said Friday.

The US wants each side to rebuild the other's trust in the process, he said. For the Palestinian Authority, that means resuming security ties, while Israel is expected to take "no unilateral actions" in Jerusalem and the territories, presumably meaning further construction projects.

The rebuilding of trust is necessary due to the "breakdown" in relations between the sides, he added.

In his briefing Friday, acting State Department spokesman John Dinger said Ross is "going out there to see what steps the parties are willing to take to try and ... restore confidence, get the process back on track."

"This is a long-term process, as we all know. And this is one stage in a long-term process," Dinger said.

Ross and the US peace team, including State Department and National Security Council officials, will be returning just two weeks after their most recent mission. This visit, to begin tomorrow, will likely include only Jerusalem and Gaza. The US will then decide on what further steps to take.

For now, the official said, restoring security cooperation and resuming interim arrangements may have to suffice, since getting to final-status talks is seen to be unlikely soon.

Renewing security cooperation should not, in any case, be a precondition to other negotiations, he added.

With the now-two-month break in talks that began with the start of construction in Har Homa, the US is concerned that the stalemate could continue until "there is an explosion" on the political or security levels that would create an even greater crisis - "something like what we saw in September, or in February-March 1996," the official said, referring to the fighting following the Western Wall Tunnel exit opening, and the series of suicide bombings.

Complicating the US's attempt to find a formula to resume the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue is the administration's continued inability to discern what Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's strategy is regarding relations with the Palestinians and his approach to final-status negotiations, the official said.

Also Friday, the State Department reissued an alert to Palestinian-Americans to acquire the proper documentation before traveling to the territories via Israel.

Dinger offered the suggestion Friday, saying that Palestinian-Americans have encountered difficulty transiting Gaza and the West Bank through Israel.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair waves as he arrives at No. 10 Downing Street on Friday following his landslide victory. (Reuters)

## Blair takes Britain's helm

News agencies

LONDON - Britain's Labor Party has won its greatest-ever victory and Tony Blair didn't waste any time yesterday starting to do something his party hasn't done in a generation. Govern.

Even though it was the start of a three-day holiday weekend, Blair arrived at 10 Downing St. and started making final decisions on the rest of his cabinet. One of his first moves after becoming prime minister was to name seven key members.

Throughout the morning, senior Labor figures arrived at 10 Downing St. Several walked away with cabinet positions, including Marjorie Mowlam in the key post as Northern Ireland secretary and George Robertson as defense secretary.

"For 18 years, 18 long years, our party has been in opposition," Blair declared Friday as he took possession of 10 Downing St., the prime minister's official residence. "It could only say, it could not do. Today we are charged with the deep responsibility of government. Today enough of talking, it is time now to do."

And time is short. Labor has just over a week before it sets out its legislative program at the formal opening of parliament.

Within six weeks, Blair faces an important European Union summit, his first test in an arena where his predecessor, John Major, was often isolated, and another summit of G-7 leaders in Denver.

Britain's future in Europe is expected to be a key issue in the next five years.

Labor adopted the defeated Conservative Party's wait-and-see policy on joining a single European currency. Internal squabbling over European integration badly divided the Tories and was a key factor in the



### BRITISH ELECTIONS

party's trouncing at the polls. The Financial Times reported that Blair has offered Sir David Simon, chairman of British Petroleum, the position of minister for Europe and a seat in the unelected House of Lords. Simon was not among yesterday morning's visitors.

British Petroleum said Simon was talking to Blair but nothing had been decided.

"He would very much like to be involved in the shaping of the UK's relationship with its European partners but also to continue as chairman of BP. He will be considering over the next few days if it is possible to do both of these things," a BP spokesman said, speaking anonymously.

Blair spent his first night as prime minister in his home in the Islington area of north London with his wife, Cherie Booth, and three young children. Booth got a rude awakening yesterday morning to the perils of being the prime minister's wife. When a policeman knocked, she opened the door in a short nightgown and suddenly realized that photographers across the street were snapping away. She quickly backed away behind the door, and a man delivering flowers went inside. He also brought in the morning papers.

Blair is the first prime minister to have young children since Labor's Ramsay MacDonald in the 1920s. The living quarters above the prime minister's official offices at 10 Downing are small, and a Downing Street spokesman said the Blairs had inspected the area Friday and decided it was not really suitable for family living.

The Blairs are considering living next door at 11 Downing St., usually the home of the chancellor of the exchequer, which is more spacious, the spokesman said, but no decision has been made. Gordon Brown, the treasury chief, is a bachelor.

Major resigned as Conservative party leader as he stood outside 10 Downing St. for the last time. He'll remain an ordinary backbencher in a shrunken and divided party.

Conservatives began jockeying for the leadership although only former chancellor of the exchequer Kenneth Clarke has announced that he will be a candidate.

Former Tory cabinet minister Sir Norman Fowler, one of only 165 Conservatives to win seats in the new Parliament, said the party needs time to recover from the huge defeat and there was "no hurry" for leadership candidates to rush forward.

"Opposition and the demands of opposition are very difficult," he told BBC Radio 4. "You need a tough leader - someone who can do successful battle in the House of Commons twice a week and someone who can develop policy at the same time." Former deputy prime minister Michael Heseltine, who suffered a heart attack in 1993, was hospitalized with angina pain. He announced that he would not be a candidate to replace Major as Conservative Party leader.

Blair's cabinet appointments included John Prescott, a blunt-speaking former ship's steward, as deputy prime minister. Economist Gordon Brown became chancellor of the exchequer, promising fiscal, if not political, conservatism. Other key appointments included Robin Cook as foreign and commonwealth secretary, Clare Short in charge of dispensing Britain's foreign aid as secretary for international development, Harriet Harman as social security secretary, Lord Irvine as Lord Chancellor, and Britain's first blind minister, David Blunkett as education secretary. Blair named five women to cabinet posts.

## Netanyahu congratulates Blair

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu sent a telegram to British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Friday, congratulating him on his "stunning election victory."

"We seem to be at an historic point in which a new generation is assuming power in many countries," Netanyahu wrote. "I have no doubt that you will add great energy and vigorous leadership to the political life of Great Britain and Europe and that your stewardship will have a lasting impact on world affairs."

Jerusalem Post Staff

## Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day begins tonight

By ABIEH O'SULLIVAN

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day begins tonight with a state ceremony at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, to be attended by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and other dignitaries. The ceremony, which begins at 8, will be televised on

Channels 1 and 2. In an effort to further educate Israelis about the Holocaust, IDF soldiers will be entering the names of victims into the computers at Yad Vashem, the IDF Spokesman said.

The project, organized jointly by Yad Vashem and the Education Corps, is aimed at computerizing the names of all who perished in

the Holocaust, using the forms filled out by relatives and acquaintances over the years.

"The participation of soldiers in this national mission is bringing them closer to an awareness of the Holocaust and its significance and the IDF sees the project as an important educational endeavor," the spokesman said.

## Bentsur: No terms to Syrian talks

### Levy meets EU envoy today

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and news agencies

Israel has rejected a recent Syrian offer to renew peace talks, because it included as a precondition the government's agreeing to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, a senior official said yesterday.

Foreign Minister David Levy is to discuss ways of resuming the negotiations with Syria with European Union peace talks envoy Miguel Moratinos, who was to arrive from Damascus last night.

Syria recently proposed three formulas to resume talks, which were relayed to the government by Moratinos, Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur revealed yesterday.

However, each proposal included a demand that Israel could not accept, and therefore the government rejected all three proposals, he said. Bentsur was speaking at a question-and-answer forum in Rehovot, where he was interviewed by former Davar editor Hannah Semer.

Bentsur, who is also to attend Levy's meeting with Moratinos today, said one of the Syrian proposals was based on Resolution 242, but included a demand for a detailed breakdown of the resolution according to the Syrian interpretation, i.e. an Israeli commitment for complete withdrawal from the Golan. Israel, of

course, rejected this demand, Bentsur said.

Bentsur said the final communiqué of the recent Malta Conference included a call by the 27 member states for negotiations between Syria and Israel to be resumed on the basis of the Madrid Conference. The announcement was formulated with the consensus of all the states at the conference, including Syria.

Bentsur pointed out that the announcement was in keeping with a proposal Levy made three months ago that was rejected at the time by the Syrians. He suggested this might provide an opening for a bridging formula that would enable the resumption of negotiations.

The possibility of resuming talks with Syria on the basis of the Madrid Conference is expected to be discussed by Levy, Bentsur, and Moratinos at their meeting today.

Under the Labor government, the sides appeared on the verge of a Golan-for-peace deal, but it was never finalized. The Netanyahu government opposes a complete Golan pullout.

Bentsur told Israel Radio yesterday that Israel is open to renewing the peace talks based on the Madrid model, which imposed no preconditions on either side.

Netanyahu participated in the Madrid Conference as deputy foreign minister.

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## NEWS

in brief

**Haredim try to block Rehov Bar-Ilan**

Hundreds of haredim tried to block traffic on Rehov Bar-Ilan yesterday, but they were forced off the Jerusalem thoroughfare by police. Several haredim also threw bottles onto the road. One man was arrested on suspicion he attacked a policeman. *Itim*

**1 dead, 21 injured on roads**

A foreign worker was killed and 21 people were injured - six seriously - in road accidents over the weekend. The man was killed late Friday night near the Lod interchange on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway when he tried to cross the road on his bicycle and was hit by a car.

Earlier Friday, a four-car pile-up on Rehov Yigal Yadin in Jerusalem left 11 people injured, one of them seriously. Two women were seriously injured yesterday in a head-on collision near Ness Ziona.

Eight people were hurt, three seriously, in three different accidents in the Sharon area. Last week, up to noon on Friday, 12 people were killed and 14 seriously injured in road accidents. *Itim*

**Boy killed by shell in firing zone**

A 14-year-old Be'er Sheva boy was killed when a shell he picked up in an IDF firing zone in the Tel Aviv area exploded. The boy's family had been looking for him since the morning, and found him dead at 2:30 p.m. Police arrived on the scene and took parts of the shell for laboratory analysis. *Itim*

**Two Hebron stonethrowers lightly wounded**

Several dozen Palestinian youths stoned IDF troops in the center of Hebron on Friday morning. Soldiers dispersed the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets. Palestinian sources reported that two youths were lightly wounded in the exchange. *Itim*

**Sanctions by gov't workers continue**

Disruptions in 15 government ministries are to continue today, with workers refusing to receive the public, answer phones, or send mail and faxes.

Interior Ministry workers will not issue passports or identity cards, and the Transport Ministry's Licensing Bureau will not give tests in driving theory or issue car registrations.

The workers are protesting what they say is the Treasury's delay in putting through a wage increase. The Treasury insists what the workers are demanding contravenes their signed wage agreement.

The Treasury is to decide today whether to take legal steps to force the workers to resume their regular duties. *Itim*

**Egypt rejects US offer to deport Abdel-Rahman**

The US offered to deport to Egypt Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a Moslem cleric jailed for plotting to blow up New York landmarks, but Cairo rejected the proposal, the London-based Al-Hayat reported yesterday.

Abdel-Rahman, 58, was sentenced to life in prison in 1995 for conspiring to blow up landmarks, including the World Trade Center and the UN.

Abdel-Rahman is widely believed to be the spiritual leader of the Islamic Group, a militant group fighting to topple the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak. *Reuters*

**Ray Charles cancels Lebanon concerts**

US singer Ray Charles canceled two summer concerts in Lebanon after the US State Department advised him against making the trip, the organizing committee said yesterday.

The State Department cited its decade-old ban on Americans traveling to Lebanon, an official of the Beit-edine Festival's organizing committee said.

The committee received a letter Friday from Charles' agents in the US canceling the July 25-26 concerts in the summer resort of Beit-edine, 60 kilometers southeast of Beirut, the official said. *AP*

With great sorrow we announce the death of our beloved mother and grandmother

**LUCIANA JARACH**

The funeral will leave from Beit Hahesped, Givat Shaul Cemetery, Jerusalem, Sunday, May 4, 1997, at 2:30 p.m.

Her children: Mirella Bamberger, Federico and Elic Jarach, Marina Slev, Dina and Gaby Lehman, Renato and Judith Jarach Grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Shiva at 20 Radak St., Rehavia, Jerusalem

We deeply mourn the death of our beloved

**ALAN (ILAN) BARZEL**

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, May 4, 1997, at the Ramat Hasharon Cemetery at 4:30 p.m.

His wife: Monika Barzel (née Friedman)  
His daughter: Miriam Rotman and her family  
His son: Guy Barzel and wife, Orly  
Families: Hare, Friedman, Rotman, Lavid

We sadly announce the death of our beloved

**MIRA SANDOR**

(née Hoffmann)

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, May 4, 1997, at 12:00, at the Brosh Gate, Kfar Samir.

Please refrain from visiting.  
Edna and Dr. Shlomo Carmel and family

**Thousands rally for state inquiry**

Demonstrators demand investigation into Bar-On Affair

By URIEL HEILMAN

Thousands of people turned out for a mass rally at the Wohl Rose Garden opposite the Knesset last night, demanding the establishment of a state commission of inquiry into the Bar-On Affair.

Ray Elbaz, 21, one of the demonstration organizers, called upon "young and old, Right and Left, religious and secular, Sephardim and Ashkenazim" to unite in the pursuit of justice.

Producer Yigal Goren, a former Israel Television reporter who worked with a group of young people to coordinate the event, said, "This event has significance for the entire political spectrum. We will step up the pressure; this is just the beginning."

Last night's demonstration was the culmination of an effort that began on April 22, when hundreds, including former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair, gathered opposite the Knesset to demand a state commission of inquiry into the Bar-On Affair. Since then, small groups of protesters have been at the Wohl Rose Garden, holding a vigil 24 hours a day and soliciting signatures on a petition demanding the inquiry.

Elbaz, who spearheaded the protest with Dani Zarzewsky, explained that every citi-

zen should demand the commission of inquiry be set up to ensure the integrity of the nation's leaders.

"Netanyahu was chosen in a democratic way," said Elbaz, "but here things were done that were just not right."

"If they behave this way with regard to the appointment of the attorney-general, how will they make decisions tomorrow regarding Hebron, the economy, and other things?" said Ori Maron, who has been volunteering at the protest every day since it began. "As concerned youth, this frightens us."

Elbaz explained that recent events propelled him to action. "The Bar-On Affair was the red line for me: I was just seeing too much corruption in the government," he said. His frustration reached its breaking point when the prime minister responded as if the attorney-general's report had conclusively proved his innocence.

The protest, Elbaz said, ensures that "the prime minister won't sleep well at night. This should at least let him know that his nation is disgusted by him."

The day after the protest began, the volunteers' efforts were joined by Goren, who provided technical assistance to the campaign. By the morning after the initial

demonstration, Goren had arranged for a tent to be set up at the site, procured the necessary permits for the protest, set up a bank account for the thousands of shekels flowing in to the campaign, and got individuals and companies to supply the volunteers with cellular phones, stickers, posters, and food.

Since then, support for the protesters' demands have come from all ends of the political spectrum. While most of the youth coordinating the protest are affiliated with the Left, supporters have come from across the political spectrum, including Shas. Several MKs, including Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak, and Yossi Sarid, have signed the petition, and the petition has also been circulating with the help of volunteers in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beersheba, Holon, and Ashdod, who set up protest booths in each of those cities. Some 70,000 signatures have been collected so far.

Elie Eidelman, a volunteer who has spent several hours every day at the protest site, said, "Even if the protest doesn't help now, at least it will help make integrity an issue in the next elections."

"Our task was to bring the issue to public awareness," said Elbaz. "Now it is in the

hands of the citizens. This is the spark that should ignite the fire."

Sarah Homig adds:

Labor leadership candidate MK Ephraim Sneh complained yesterday that he had been "tossed in a very violent, abusive manner from the Jerusalem demonstration called to back demands for a state inquiry commission into the Bar-On Affair."

Sneh said he was the first to begin circulating a petition calling for such a commission in stands he put up on Tel Aviv streets, and later sent a van around the country to collect more signatures. The sponsors of the Jerusalem petition, he claims, came after him.

Last night, Sneh recounts, he "came to the demonstration just as any ordinary citizen, which is my right. When TV interviewers approached, one of the organizers, Yigal Goren, strode forward menacingly and in an ugly manner tried to eject me, screaming that I am riding on his coat tails and that I am trying to steal headlines at his expense and lead the effort a political air."

"He blocked TV cameramen and even covered their lenses with his hands. As a TV journalist himself, he should have known better than to behave in this unseemly violent fashion."

**Likud blasts Labor for wanting probe**

By SARAH HOMIG

The Likud charged last night that the campaign to establish a state commission of inquiry into the Bar-On Affair is nothing but "another hypocritical Labor-instigated attempt to bring down the government."

"This is not, as presented, an independent spontaneous move by politically unaffiliated citizens. This is a very political act organized and orchestrated by the Labor Party, which clutches at this as a last-ditch effort to bring down the government, not via the ballot box," the Likud party said in a statement, in response to the demonstration outside the Prime Minister's Office last night.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who distanced herself from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu until the decision not to indict him, also said yesterday that "despite the pretense, it is very clear that the call for a state inquiry commission is a very political, partisan call. It constitutes a vote of no-confidence, if not contempt, in the decision of the state attorney and the attorney-general. However, after three months of an intensive and exhaustive police investigation, it is hard to imagine what an inquiry commission could unearth that the police did not."

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, however, continued his criticism of the government over the weekend.

Sharon urged that the government "draw up immediate, detailed blue prints of where it plans to go in the next moves of the Oslo process. We need to have clear goals and cannot ad lib. This government has already used up all of the credit it had at its disposal and even its supporters want to know where it is leading us."

Sharon reiterated his long-standing opposition to direct elections system and urged that the law be amended. "I say this not because of opposition to the prime minister but out of a deep-set conviction and principles."

Meanwhile, Third Way MK Yehuda Harel said on Channel 1 television yesterday morning that "contrary to the impression which too much political chatter may lead, elections are not around the corner. From serious talks which I had in recent days with Labor leaders, I can say without equivocation that they are not really interested in advancing the elections."

This was disputed by Labor leadership candidate MK Ephraim Sneh, who said he was one of the Laborites with whom Harel met.

Just before he was turned away from last night's demonstration, lest his attendance lend it too political an image, he told reporters that he had "very plainly asked Harel what it would take until the Third Way walked out of this government. It is unthinkable that a man who joined this government and who collaborates with it, should then attack Labor for supposedly not being committed enough to fight it. Harel is speaking an untruth."

Sneh and the other three Labor leadership candidates - frontrunner MK Ehud Barak, MK Yossi Beilin and MK Shlomo Ben-Ami - may hold a debate in an upcoming installment of Channel 2's Meet the Press program.

This would be the only debate prior to the June 3 primary.



Israel, China discuss cooperation

Finance Minister Dan Meridor greets Chen Jiruha, the Chinese senior minister for social and economics planning, who arrived last week to discuss joint projects in agriculture, communications, medicine and chemical manufacturing. Chen invited Meridor to visit China in September.

**PA bans sale of land through unauthorized agents**

The Palestinian Authority said yesterday it had banned the sale of land through unauthorized agents in order to counter expansion of Jewish settlements.

The ban, affecting all of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, covers areas now beyond PA control, including eastern Jerusalem.

"In some cases where Israelis build new settlements on Palestinian land, we discovered that Palestinian owners have sold their land to Arab or foreign deal-

ers working for Israeli companies," a PA official told Reuters.

"To stop this, we are prohibiting the sales of land through [unauthorized] Arab or foreign dealers," he said of the decision taken at a PA cabinet meeting overnight.

PA cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel-Rahman said the PA would need to approve all land deals and all real estate agents.

"The leadership has ordered its security and judicial apparatus to see that the decision is implement-

ed, and to punish anyone charged with [unauthorized] selling of land, whether directly or by facilitating the sale process, which is considered the greatest danger threatening Palestinian land," the PA statement said.

Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians ground to a halt and violence erupted after Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu approved the start of a Jewish housing project on Har Homa, in southern Jerusalem. *(Reuters)*

**Palestinian lawyer arrested for criticizing PA legal system**

By JON IMMANUEL

A lawyer working for the Palestinian Authority has been jailed in Gaza for writing an article about the Bar-On Affair that compared the PA legal system unfavorably to the Israeli system.

Jamil Salameh, who works at the Ministry of Planning, headed by Nabil Shaath, wrote the article for the Gaza Bar Association journal. But when he showed it in the journal's editors for publication, they passed it on to the public prosecutor, Khalid al-Qidrah, who ordered Salameh arrested. He was arrested last Saturday and is being held at the Gaza Central Prison.

It is the first time a writer in Gaza has been jailed by the PA for an unpublished article.

The article expressed admiration for the way the Israel Police investigated the Bar-On Affair and commented particularly on the investigation of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi.

Many articles published in the Palestinian press have said the same thing. However, Salameh went further, asking when such an independent legal system would be adopted by the PA, according to Bassam Eid of the Human Rights Monitoring Group. Eid was speaking Thursday at a forum on the media and democracy organized by the Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information.

Al-Qidrah said Friday that Salameh was charged with security offenses, and that while freedom of the press was to be defended, this did not permit slander.

**US report reinforces claim Swiss kept billions in looted Nazi gold**

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A long-awaited US government report will state there is conclusive evidence that the Nazis sold Switzerland gold stolen from individual Holocaust victims, sources close to the State Department said on Friday.

The sources said the 11-agency report will also show that after the war, Switzerland failed to return billions of dollars worth of looted Nazi gold it received during the war.

The sources' comments were denounced by the US official preparing the report. Under Secretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat, in a statement issued by the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, said the sources' comments were inaccurate.

The sources contacted by Reuters said they stood

by their account.

"The Reuters story is based on pure speculation, contains inaccuracies and should be given no credence," the statement by Eizenstat said.

Eizenstat did not specify what the inaccuracies were but he cautioned that in the coming days interested parties would attempt to put their own slant on the report.

The Swiss Embassy declined comment.

The more than 200-page report, based on 14 million pages of US government documents, was prepared under Eizenstat's direction. It is expected to be released on Wednesday, and the sources said it will be very harsh on the Swiss role in the war as bankers and even money-launderers for the Third Reich.

**Arafat, Weizman due to meet**

News agencies

President Ezer Weizman and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat have agreed to meet, but a date has yet to be set, Israel Radio and a Palestinian Authority official said yesterday.

"Weizman asked for the meeting," said the PA official, who confirmed the Israel Radio report. "No date has been set for the meeting. We don't expect it to take place before the end of the week." He would not elaborate on the purpose of the meeting.

Weizman's director-general, Arye Shumer, later told Israel Radio that it was the PA that had requested the meeting.

"There are contacts on this issue and we are in contact with the prime minister and the Palestinian Authority in light of the request of the Palestinian Authority," Shumer said.

Israel Radio, quoting a senior PA official, said the meeting had been delayed for technical reasons but could take place this week.

Weizman has tried in the past to smooth relations between Israel and the PA that have been rocky since Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu took office last June.

Weizman played a key role in mediating the last major breakdown between the sides when he invited Arafat to his home for a meeting last October.

Also yesterday, Arafat called on US President Bill Clinton and the world community to save the deteriorating peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

In a statement released early yesterday morning after a five-hour cabinet meeting in Ramallah, Arafat said Israel's "malicious" settlement of the West Bank and east Jerusalem is aimed at denying the Palestinians their own state.

"There is no way of getting out of this crisis without an international intervention," Arafat said in the statement.







BACKGROUND

# Meet Tony Blair

By PAUL CARREL

LONDON (Reuters) - Tony Blair, Britain's new prime minister, traded on some diverse experiences to revamp the Labor Party and lead it to power.

Born to working-class parents on May 6, 1953, Blair profited from his father's hard work and was sent to private school and to Oxford University where he studied law. He was a lawyer before entering parliament in 1983.

As he told the Labor Party conference last October: "I wasn't born Labor, I became Labor." In an unscripted departure from that conference speech, he told how his world "felt apart" when he awoke one morning just after his 11th birthday to be told his father, Leo, had suffered a severe stroke at the age of 40.

"It taught me something: it taught me the value of the family, because my mother worked for three years to help him talk and walk again," Blair said.

"My father was a very ambitious man, he was successful, he was a go-getter," said Blair, describing the same attributes which have propelled him to 10 Downing Street, the prime minister's residence.

Blair's father abandoned his socialist roots and stood as a Conservative for parliament. Only when Blair scrapped the Labor Party constitution's Clause Four, which specified that the state should own the means of production, did he rejoin Labor.

If his parents taught him the virtues of hard work, Blair occasionally strayed from the path. At Oxford University he drifted, lacking purpose and direction, until he met Peter Thomson, then a 36-year-old Australian theology student.

"Beyond getting a degree, I don't think he really knew what he was doing at Oxford," Thomson said.

Blair's mother Hazel died of cancer when he was 21. The young student realized that life was tenuous and he had to channel his energies if he was to achieve anything.

Thomson introduced him to his own radical brand of Christianity. During late night conversations in "Thommo's room," the down-to-earth Australian opened his eyes to a religious faith he could relate to.

Thomson's influence has left its mark on Blair's politics.

As a mutual friend commented: "You can hear Thomson in Blair's speeches."

Blair met his wife Cherie when they were both trainee lawyers working for Labor grandee Lord Irvine and developed a relaxed professional relationship.

There was no hint of romance until they played a game at an office Christmas party in 1977 which involved passing a balloon to one another through their legs.

"I began to see her differently," said Blair. "I was immensely attracted to her, not just her looks but her personality." The relationship blossomed and it became harder for them to conceal their emotions at work.

"Beyond getting a degree, I don't think he really knew what he was doing at Oxford," Thomson said.

Finally at a clients' meeting they could not keep their eyes off each other and Irvine grew irritated until, Blair said, he snatched at him: "For goodness sake take the girl to the pub or something." The Blairs celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary on March 29, a testament to the success of a relationship built on friendship and team-work.

Blair's romantic streak is intact. "I'm still excited by Cherie," he said. "I adore her still and am deeply in love with her." The Blairs have managed to juggle the demands of their dynamic careers with the domestic pressures of bringing up a young family. They have three children.



Britain's new Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown leaves Downing Street on Friday.

(Reuters)

## Seeds of Major's rout sown long ago

LONDON (Reuters) - Announcing his departure as Conservative Party leader on Friday, John Major still seemed baffled as to why the British people had voted his government out of office the day before.

"The economy is booming, interest rates are low and inflation is low and unemployment is falling," he said, taking his leave outside the prime minister's Downing Street residence.

Major had held a huge opinion poll lead for months before Major called the election on March 17, hoping the longest campaign in living memory would wear his opponents down.

But the tactic failed lamentably, and all the pundits agree that by then it was probably too late. The three decisive moments came long before Major and Labor leader Tony Blair set out on the campaign trail.

The first came in September 1992, just five months after the Conservatives had won a surprise election victory.

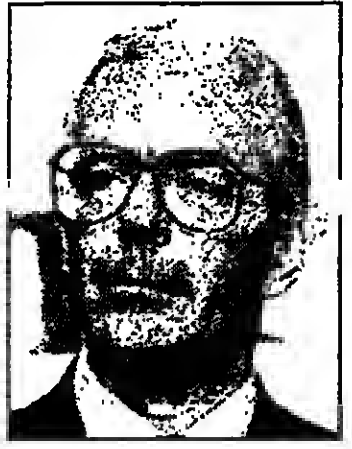
As speculators gambled against sterling, Major and the then Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont battled to keep the pound in Europe's exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

But although they spent 20 billion pounds (\$32 billion) to defend sterling and pushed interest rates briefly up to 15 percent, the pound crashed out, dealing a fatal blow to the Conservatives' image as guardians of the economy.

The second crucial moment came in April 1995, when Blair won overwhelming backing to scrap Labor's traditional, if little-honored, commitment to public ownership of the means of production in a symbolic break with the party's socialist past.

The final nail in the Conservatives' electoral coffin was hammered in six months ago, when Blair's economics spokesman Gordon Brown set out his tax and spending policies.

Brown was accused of voluntarily lowering an economic strategy that he promised to hold to the Conservatives' spending plans and



John Major

pledged no increase in income tax rates. But he had effectively stopped the Conservatives from using tax as a weapon against Labor as they had done so successfully in 1992.

Conservative splits over Europe and a string of scandals had pushed Labor's poll lead to 26 points.

Major was convinced he could eat into that in the campaign, but no

sooner had he named election day than sleaze reappeared.

Former minister Tim Smith quit as a candidate in a row over cash payments he had received from the owner of London's up-market Harrods store Mohamed Al Fayed.

Smith fell on his sword in an attempt to bury the issue, but another former minister involved in the row, Neil Hamilton, refused to stand down, protesting his innocence.

With the approval of Labor and the Liberal Democrats, who withdrew their candidates, former BBC war reporter Martin Bell stood against Hamilton as an anti-sleaze candidate, ensuring the issue was placed even more prominently in the public eye.

In desperation, Major took over the election campaign. He scrapped planned advertisements and delivered personal broadcasts instead, hoping his reputation for honesty and decency would count.

But his hands-on approach merely focused attention about the campaign's direction. Advertisements were cancelled, causing bad blood at Conservative headquarters and undermining morale even further.

On April 18, the Conservatives launched a poster showing Tony Blair as a ventriloquist's dummy sitting on the knee of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The aim was to show Blair as too dependent on a negotiator to defend Britain's interests.

Major laughed it off as a sign of panic and a sign of the tax-averse mood of the voters. Major's government in the 1992 election had back with a claim that the Conservatives would abolish the state pension.

It was the final blow. An increasingly tense and emotional Major accused Blair of lying over the state pension.

On April 21, the pro-European Conservative member of parliament Edward Byrne said the world had been set on a landslide and that the blame lay with Major's door.

The fault for the unexpected but

## EU welcomes Labor victory

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Britain's European partners yesterday welcomed the Labor Party's landslide general election victory and expressed hope a new government under Tony Blair would be an easier partner in European integration.

Farther afield, President Clinton congratulated Labor Party leader Tony Blair on his party's victory while Asian states did the same. There was little impact in Hong Kong, due to revert to Chinese sovereignty in less than two months.

White House spokesman David Johnson said Clinton called Blair in the early hours of Friday to congratulate him on his victory.

Few tears were shed across the EU over John Major's thumping defeat, but the other 14 nations in the group were unsure whether Blair's arrival would relax Britain's prickly attitude to key issues of sovereignty.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking in Brussels during an Asian tour, said the poll showed Britons did not like anti-European policies, adding anti-EU policies could not win votes any more.

German Social Democrats (SPD), out of office for almost as long as the British Labor Party, hailed Blair's win as the start of a trend they hope will return them to power in a federal parliamentary election next year after 16 years in opposition.

"In 73 weeks we'll do exactly the same. Congratulations Tony Blair!" a billboard outside SPD headquarters proclaimed.

But Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), noting the SPD had not yet named its chal-

lenger to Kohl, promptly asked who was the "Tony Blair of the SPD."

German editorial writers were scathing about the defeated Conservatives, whose Eurosceptical campaign, with its anti-European overtones, offended sensitivities of their readers.

In France, which is caught in the throes of campaigning for its own two-stage parliamentary election on May 25 and June 1, President Jacques Chirac said in a message to Blair that he would be happy to meet him soon in the French capital. The invitation was informal and no dates were mentioned.

Socialist opposition leader Lionel Jospin sent Blair a brief congratulatory message saying he "rejoiced the British people had changed majority in order to change their future." The campaign slogan of France's Socialists in the country's current general election campaign is "Let's change the future."

French European Affairs Minister Michel Barnier said his country's opposition Socialists had yet to understand that their British counterparts had won the election because they had dropped "outmoded precepts" about state control of the economy.

In Amsterdam, a Dutch government press statement said Prime Minister Wim Kok had "congratulated Blair in a telegram and expressed the hope that the new British government will contribute to a positive result at the (EU's) Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) in Amsterdam in June."

In Brussels, EU diplomats said Labor

could have an immediate impact at an IGC preparatory meeting tomorrow expected to be the last before the Dutch EU presidency puts forward a draft treaty ahead of the Amsterdam summit.

The IGC, due to complete its revision of the Maastricht Treaty on European union by mid-June, and streamline the bloc's institutions ahead of an ambitious eastward expansion, was anathema to the Conservatives, who feared federalism and muttered darkly about the threat to the nation-state.

EU Commission president Jacques Santer pointed out in a telegram of congratulations to Blair that Britain would take over the presidency of the EU in the first half of next year.

"Never more than now has the European Union needed strong British commitment with its unique combination of pragmatism and efficiency," his telegram said.

Spain's conservative government said it would continue to enjoy friendly relations with Britain following Labor's landslide victory, but that Gibraltar would remain a sticking point.

"We shall continue with those good relations, and naturally the question of Gibraltar, which is an obstacle in that excellent relationship, for Spain, will continue as it was," Foreign Minister Abel Matutes told Spanish national radio.

Gibraltar has been an irritant in relations between Britain and Spain for many years. Spain insists that Britain hand back the colony which it seized almost 300 years ago.

## Scotland and Wales to get their own assemblies

LONDON (AP) - Under Britain's new Labor government, Scotland and Wales are to get their own assemblies - a move the defeated Conservatives warn is the first step toward shattering the United Kingdom.

For now, though, the Conservatives are shattered. They lost their remaining seats in Scotland and Wales, as well as their leadership position, in the election.

"It was like being hit by a nuclear warhead," said defeated Welsh Conservative Walter Sweeney.

Scottish Labor lawmaker George Robertson said politicians had underestimated the sheer determination of the people of Scotland to make a change in the government

of the country." In Britain's last national election, in 1992, the Tories won 11 of 72 seats in Scotland and 6 of 38 in Wales.

The Labor landslide that swept Tony Blair into No. 10 Downing St gave the party 50 of 72 seats in Scotland and 24 of 38 in Wales - and a clear mandate to go ahead with the assemblies.

Wales, which won 56 of the 72 Scottish seats, has promised to give a 29-member Scottish parliament the authority over education, health and legal affairs.

In addition, the 5 million Scots will get to vote this fall on whether the Scottish parliament gets tax-raising powers.

During the campaign, the Conservatives derided the idea of

a "Tartan Tax," which would be added to the taxes Scots already pay.

Even though they didn't win a seat, the Tories did get 500,000 votes, and defeated Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth said they won't give up.

Forsyth, one of seven Conservative Cabinet ministers to lose their seats, said the Scottish people "would come to know the price of Labor's failure to think through devolution plans properly." He also announced he was bowing out of politics.

The Scottish National Party, which advocates independence, took 22 percent of the vote in Scotland and doubled its delegation in the House of Commons to

six. In Wales, where Labor won 34 of the 40 seats, party spokesman Ron Davies promised that devolution would be a key issue.

"Labor offered a very clear set of commitments and with this marvelous endorsement we have had, we'll be in a very strong position to deliver," Davies said.

Unlike Scotland, Wales doesn't have separate legal and school systems from England's and it will get a less powerful assembly.

Daifudd Wiggins, president of Plaid Cymru, the Welsh nationalist party, said the Welsh expect Labor to deliver on devolution. The party called on Labor to issue a policy paper within a month outlining their plans for an assembly.

## Record number of women elected to parliament

LONDON (Reuters) - A record number of women will take up seats in the "Moshers of Parliament" after the Labor Party made its best ever showing in Britain's general election.

As results trickled in, the number of female members of parliament (MPs) looked set to double from 62 to about 120, although Westminster will remain overwhelmingly male.

"I'm pleased that there will be a real mix of MPs, with more women and younger Members of Parliament," said Claire Ward, who at 24 became the youngest member of the current intake.

Twin sisters Angela and Maria Eagle were also swept to Westminster on the tidal wave of support for Labor, becoming both the first twins and the first sisters to enter parliament.

Nearly 300 women had run for parliament's 659 seats in Thursday's election and their one-in-four success rate means the magic 100 mark will be broken for

the first time.

"It will be important that a number of women are all entering at the same time. If there is a huge chunk of women all new together, it will be easier to back each other up," said analyst Mary-Ann Stephenson of the Fawcett Society.

Labor, on course for a majority of close to 180 seats, had 101 of the 1997 intake, with the Conservatives, traditionally favoured by women voters, supplying 12. Others came from the Scottish National Party and the Liberal Democrats.

Before Thursday's election, women made up just 9.2 percent of the House of Commons and analysts said the scale of the new influx should finally make a difference to the way business is conducted at Westminster.

Currently, the corridors of power resemble a boys' school or a gentlemen's club. Women's toilets are notoriously hard to find. There is a rifle range and 11 bars, but no creche.

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סקרנות האוכל



DISK-COVERY

# Follow that Dillybilly!

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

**H**ovurat Ho'Dillybillys, a CD-ROM in Hebrew, by Cinnamon Multimedia Ltd. of Bnei Brak, distributed by Hed Artzi Multimedia, for children aged six to 12, NIS 159. The disk has also been translated into other languages and is sold in the US, Holland, Switzerland, Belgium, South Africa, Italy, Austria and Germany.  
Rating: four-and-a-half stars out of five

Navigating your way over a barren hill on a starless night is one of the make-or-break challenges for a soldier on officer's training course. While I'm not suggesting that the army buy a truckload of these disks to improve navigational abilities, I have no doubt that children who successfully maneuver their way through this disk will hone these skills.

This completely Israeli disk is impressive for its imagination, beautiful and realistic three-dimensional animation, natural sound effects and intelligent challenges. The story is based on eight different-shaped and -colored animals called Dillybillys. These lovable animals, which look like a cross between dinosaurs, plucked chickens and rhinoceroses, lived for many years in peace in a green valley, until man arrived and built cities and roads around the valley, wiping out the creatures' natural habitat. Your mission is to find the Dillybillys and help them find their way home. The program is unusual in that there are no humans to be seen on this disk; only the creatures scamper around, each emitting a characteristic word in Hebrew.

Users are allocated a walkie-talkie to keep in touch with Kerem, who controls the home base. She assists them in finding their way through the program. They must navigate through seven different locations, including the shopping center, construction site, fire station, theater and train station, by clicking the mouse. Doing so, the



A CD-ROM that hones navigational skills with the aid of Dillybillys - a cross between a dinosaur and a plucked chicken.

user feels he is in actual movement, going up stairs, down escalators and through alleyways. A notebook appears, advising what objects to pick up along the way. When the necessary objects are dragged into the notebook, each Dillybilly makes his appearance. After you've rounded up all the lost creatures, you can create Dillybilly animations, change background pictures, and listen to a song meant for each one.

The result is a charming program, and children will want to go through the maze of sites over and over again.

*Psychometri 800 (1997 version), a CD-ROM in Hebrew, produced by Galsoft Ltd. and distributed by Hed Artzi Multimedia, for those*

abilities and not memorized information.

However, everyone performs better when familiar with the form and technique used in the tests. If you can't afford a special crammer course, I'd recommend this NIS 199 disk for getting your mind into shape.

The user-friendly CD-ROM tests quantitative thinking (in the form of mathematical exercises), verbal thinking (such as clock is to time as thermometer is to temperature), and English.

Users take a preliminary exam to determine their baseline level. They can then study basic material and undergo short or full-fledged exams. There are over 3,000 questions in the program, which certainly gives users plenty of practice.

In each case, users are presented with a multiple choice of four possible answers. If one aborts the exam, one is greeted by a screen showing a grounded airplane; if one finishes, a score is presented, comprised of percentages of success in each subject. Users may also return to each question with an incorrect answer to learn from their mistakes. In a very helpful feature, the disk automatically calculates the weakest areas and recommends which subjects require the most study.

The English section provides texts to read and answer questions about the material, words to fill in and phrases and short sentences that have to be matched with phrases with the same meaning. The only defects I found in the program were missing and superfluous letters in quite a few English words, for example, "business," "passime" and the "m" left out of "my." Some of the phrases to be translated are a bit stilted.

But if users don't regard the disk as the "bible" of English spelling, they would do well to go over as many exercises as they can.

More information about Galsoft's products is available via its Internet site at <http://www.sababa.co.il/galsoft/>.



Amal flight technicians in training.

## Amal schools pilot a new course

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

**T**he first graduating class of the Max Fine School in Tel Aviv - which in 1928 became the first in the chain known as the Amal network - would have been amazed to see what Amal pupils are studying today. Whereas the Fine School aimed at teaching a trade to new-immigrant "Hebrew laborers," Amal graduates today are maintaining Israel Air Force jets, programming and fixing computers, working in architecture, design, fashion, music, dance and a variety of technological fields around the country.

"We regard ourselves like Aviv, No. 2 and trying harder than Hertz," jokes Dr. Haim Ilouz-Ayalon, the new chairman of the network who while doing his doctorate in social work at Yeshiva University in New York, picked up this Americanism. "ORT is Hertz and Amal 1 is Aviv," he explains. ORT, established in Russia in 1880 to provide vocational and agricultural training to young Jews, arrived in Israel only in 1949 and has since expanded greatly and has a white-collar image. Later, Emunah's Amrit network was founded with a number of religious vocational schools.

But Amal, which was for years owned by the Histadrut, was always looked upon as a non-selective "blue-collar" institution teaching teenagers and retraining adults for various vocations. Swept along with the misfortunes of the labor federation, Amal became bogged down in a NIS 6 billion debt and had to implement a painful recovery program, which had brought it back into the black. Amal has distanced itself from the Histadrut and taken the name Amal 1, hinting at its intentions of becoming No. 1.

Seeking a new image, it has placed colorful, center-spread advertisements in youth papers showing good-looking, fashionable teenagers in jeans and sunglasses. It boasts a \$120 million annual budget, 50,000 pupils and students (including Arab, Beduin and Druze), 50 educational institutions and 54 adult vocational retraining centers (teaching immigrants, demobilized soldiers and the unemployed some 850 different courses in computers, electronics and other high-tech subjects) from Kiryat Shmona to Eilat, 4,000 teachers (53 percent of them men, which is unusual in schools) and other staffers, a pedagogical technological center producing CD-ROM databases for schools, and an impressive Internet site for pupils and teachers.

One of its latest "acquisitions" was the Ahva academic community college near Kiryat Malachi, with 5,000 students and 350 professional-level lecturers. This prestigious institution gives residents of the south who enter the academic program a chance for a bachelor's degree equivalent to those of the universities. Graduates are being sought by Intel and other high-tech industries in the area. Other institutions include the Lady Davis Comprehensive Municipal High School in north Tel Aviv, the science and arts comprehensive high school in Hadera, and the Holtz College for flight technicians in Tel Aviv.

Ilouz-Ayalon, who was born in the then-disadvantaged Jerusalem border neighborhood of Mustara, has served in a variety of important positions since he completed his social-work doctorate: he was social-affairs adviser to then-prime minister Shimon Peres, he was adviser to the chairman of Knesset committees, he ran the "Peace Project" from Geneva for Nessim Gaon of the Noga Group, initiating the establishment of a large ranch in Nigeria and Noga offices in Russia, Prague and Budapest, and serves as a mental health officer when doing reserve duty in the Israel Defense Forces.

Working with Amal 1 director-general Ra'anan Shir, Ilouz-Ayalon says the network will become "the leading educational network in the country. It's moving ahead. We have carried out major changes in organization and philosophy and turned

everything on its head. I refer to implementation in the field of advanced educational techniques that have never operated in Israel and the co-option of world-renowned experts in education and pedagogy."

Amal 1 gets no subsidies, depending for its finances on the Education Ministry, which helps cover the tuition of pupils and students as well as any other school network, and the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, which sponsors vocational retraining for adults. Directly seeking contributors abroad, it asked one of its main supporters and philanthropists Harry Bloomfield of Montreal, to serve as president of Friends of Amal International. This renewed friends' organization aims at locating additional economic sources for the network, establishing an umbrella of friends - including graduates - in Israel and abroad.

**Amal has distanced itself from the Histadrut and taken the name Amal 1, hinting at its intentions of becoming No. One.**

"While Jewish mothers and fathers today want their children to be doctors and their youngsters want to be lawyers and business administrators, there are excellent jobs to be had in the fields of technology for which we are training pupils," Ilouz-Ayalon says. "We have invested much money in computers, with one computer for every eight pupils, and we constantly try to upgrade the equipment."

Amal's Internet site, launched only a few months ago and located at <http://www.amalnet.k12.il>, is a mother lode of information. Candace Salem, who is responsible for English-language publications for Amal and is in charge of the site, deserves much credit for this project. Teachers can find the latest educational material in their fields, from Judaism and English to math, the Holocaust and the sciences, and

pupils can consult the databases.

The CD-ROM project produces databases on a disk for a variety of subjects, including Jerusalem, the humanities, design and the arts, the coastal region, the history of dress, and the history of energy. "It takes three years to produce a textbook," explains Reuven Shimony, Amal 1's deputy director-general for development. "By the time they appear, some information in them may be obsolete. But with disks, we can update them at regular intervals." Amal 1 sells these disks to 650 schools around the country, most of them not affiliated to the network, charging \$110 for a single workstation and \$220 for network use of up to 20 pupils.

Since 1992, it has produced seven of them - the most recent of them with full multimedia video, sound and text - and investing \$100,000 in each.

But perhaps the most unusual use of computers by Amal 1 is its English journalism project, which will publish the best of the resulting pupils' articles on the Net, in addition to distributing printed English school newspapers to youngsters around the country.

Dr. Rabel Tal, the network's English supervisor, says that the project began as an experiment at four schools, and it has exceeded all expectations in two of them, in Hadera and Ramle. It isn't for a select few; all the pupils in the school, whatever their English skills, are encouraged to research, interview and write articles.

"First they heard lectures from journalists, including Tirzah Agassi of *The Jerusalem Post's City Lights*. They worked very hard. One team prepared a detailed questionnaire about army service and interviewed hundreds of pupils," says Tal. "Studying English, for these pupils, will never be the same again. They really enjoy it, and they're so excited when the best articles appear in print. Some of the articles will also appear in the *Post's* youth papers. We plan to expand the pilot project next year."

Ilouz-Ayalon concludes that Amal 1 is negotiating with Bezeq to hook up to the Internet not only all the network's schools but also all the homes of teachers and pupils who have a personal computer. This would truly revolutionize school-work, allowing it to continue during time away from the classroom as well. Graduates of the Max Fine School could only be jealous.

TELL ME WHY

## Desert air: Breathe the difference

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

**W**e are retired volunteers working in Israel for a few months. We find that the desert is excellent for our health. Why is desert air so conducive to good health? Avraham and Yaffa, Beersheba.

Dr. Joel Lajfair, head of the lung unit of Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, replies:

There are a number of possible reasons for this. The main one is that in desert areas, there is less vegetation, and those who are allergic to pollens floating in the air, including asthmatics, will feel much better. In addition, desert areas have fewer cars and less industry, thus there is less pollution.

In the '60s, many asthmatics went to scotch in Arad, but as the town planted more trees and gar-

dens, the amount of pollen increased, and as traffic grew, pollution did as well.

Some residents and visitors claim they feel no difference now between Arad and Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. Some people who are sensitive to cold and humidity will breathe better in a dry, warm climate. However, a hot sun could dry the skin and pose a higher risk for skin cancer unless you cover yourself up with clothing and sun-

screen.

*Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem, fax it to (02) 538-9527, or send it by e-mail to [jusie@post.co.il](mailto:jusie@post.co.il). Please include your first name and place of residence.*

NEW WORLDS

## The taxman's Web

By POST SCIENCE REPORTER

Citizens may not enjoy dealing with income-tax clerks, but the new Internet site of the Treasury's Income Tax Division is very user friendly.

The Web site - accessible via the Finance Ministry's site at <http://www.mof.gov.il> - presents up-to-date information on tax matters and the branch's services.

Obligations and rights for the 1996 tax year, documents that must be presented with the tax form, explanations on how to fill it out, ways to calculate the tax bill and tables with cost-of-living indices are all explained on the site.

Residents are also able to view tax forms and fill in the necessary data for a dry run, without identifying themselves, to calculate how much money they owe.

In addition, there is a message from Tax Commissioner Doron Levy.

The income-tax Web pages are, unfortunately, only in Hebrew, but the Finance Ministry's home site provides some material in English.

There is also updated data on the international branch of the Treasury, the state budget, a report on wage costs in the public sector and capital market activities.

According to the Finance Ministry, this interactive site will increasingly be used not only to inform the average taxpayer, but also to help decision-makers obtain accessible and accurate information in the economic sphere.

HEALTH SCAN

## Coffee's good to the last drop

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

**U**nlike most stimulants, coffee has not been proven in any medical studies to cause acute or chronic harm to any of the body's systems.

However, coconsumption of caffeine - which is also found in somewhat weaker concentrations in cola, tea and chocolate - causes mild physiological habituation, and chronic coffee drinkers who stop drinking their brew can suffer from headaches for days after giving it up.

These are the conclusions of Rita Rahmani and Mordechai Ravid of Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava, who have studied the world medical literature on what is probably the world's favorite drink.

According to the article, published in the latest issue of *Horefuah*, the Journal of the Israel Medical Association, 80 percent of the adult population in the Western world drink coffee.

Caffeine, an alkaloid, is the most commonly used psychotropic substance in the world.

There are 60 to 100 mgs. of caffeine in a cup of Turkish coffee, 50 to 80 mgs. for instant coffee or a can of cola, 20 to 80 mgs. in a cup of tea and 20 mgs. in cocoa.

The Meir Hospital researchers said that studies on the effects of coffee are very tricky to assess, as most of them are conducted using self-reporting via telephone interviews, whose data may not be accurate.

In addition, the size of "cups" of coffee varies, and it's difficult to isolate the health influences of heavy coffee-drinking from behaviors that tend to go with it, including smoking and the drinking of alcoholic beverages. Thus scientists have tested ani-



mals for the effects of caffeine, and the results are not always applicable to humans.

What is incontrovertible, said the researchers, is the appearance of headaches after a chronic coffee drinker has abstained for a day or two; this phenomenon is well-known to Jews who fast on Yom Kippur.

Many doctors recommend

avoiding coffee when patients complain of anxiety, heartburn, sleep problems, high blood pressure, angina pectoris and irregular heart beats.

But there is no clear evidence that the stimulant affects any of these conditions, especially if one keeps within the "normal" limit of 500 milligrams of caffeine per day.

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### The change Britain deserves

"Time for a change" is one thing, but the scale of Britain's Labor Party election victory has left commentators worldwide gasping for superlatives to describe it. The once mighty party of "Iron Lady" Margaret Thatcher lies in ruins. The victory undoubtedly belongs first to Prime Minister Tony Blair and the flawless, bitch-free election campaign he masterminded for his New Labor.

But the face of John Major, still frozen in disbelief, tells another story – not just the victory of his brilliant young opponent, but the angry, crushing fury that the British voters heaped on the Conservatives. Not since they threw out their hero Winston Churchill in the first election after he led them to victory over the Nazis have the British so astounded foreign observers. The British are traditionally conservative voters (with a small 'c'), with little taste for revolution, upheaval or the unseemly passions of their continental neighbors. In this election – and in the long months of pro-Labor opinion polls that preceded it – the electorate has shown the Conservatives that they had sunk beneath contempt.

That was all the more surprising for, despite his somewhat gray political image, John Major has always been respected as a good and decent man, an honest self-made person who first had to claw his way from a deprived background into the middle classes and then made it all the way to 10 Downing Street. Major probably would have been unsurprised by a more "normal" defeat fueled by the "time for a change" theme. But he was totally bewildered by the size of the rout, especially since, as he noted, the economy is in good shape, interest rates and inflation are both low, and unemployment is going steadily down.

That sort of bewilderment bedevils far too many politicians who fail to comprehend that they are losing touch with the mood of the very people they once so easily persuaded to vote for them. In any democracy, a party that holds its grip on power too long seems unable to escape the arrogance of power. This may be the same Conservative Party that Thatcher so triumphantly led into battle against Argentina and against a dying domestic economy – but it is also the party that has been regarding the public as fools for most of its last term. Too many Conservatives have been exposed as sleazy and dishonest, too many more of them have lost touch with the changing opinions of their voters.

In the most astounding example of such misjudgment, the Tories first believed the electorate had no interest in European Union matters and then, when they discovered on the nation's doorsteps that it was very much an election issue, the party assumed that an anti-Europe stand would pull in the votes. If the British voters are not as dumb as the Conservative Central Office seemed to think – neither are they as xenophobic.

But the greatest anger undoubtedly was

reserved for the sleazy goings-on that dogged the party right up to election day and left the Conservatives to try and promote Major's own good character as a campaign asset. The proof of how important the sleaze issue had become was demonstrated by BBC reporter Martin Bell, who became so disgusted that he stood against the powerful Neil Hamilton, who refused to resign over accusations of accepting payment for parliamentary questions. Bell, standing only on an "anti-sleaze" platform, easily overturned Hamilton's huge majority. It proved a miniature morality tale reflecting the whole election.

Blair's huge parliamentary majority probably means that the Conservatives would have to regroup and rebuild to do to Labor what has been done to them by next election time. At this juncture, it seems most unlikely, so if Blair proves as efficient at running the country as at running his party, this is probably a two-term government.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of a remarkable election has been the wiping out of the Conservatives in two of the four countries making up Britain – Scotland and Wales – where they won 00 seats at all. There could hardly be a more startling mandate for Blair's plan to devolve power to local Scottish and Welsh assemblies. The only region that delivered the tired old clichés of previous elections remained Northern Ireland. This province has hurried many a British political career and if Blair's new ideas can turn around any aspect of this festering problem, he will truly make his mark on British history.

One question that some commentators are asking is whether Labor's majority is too big for comfort. They say the essence of British democracy has always been the role of the loyal opposition in keeping the governing party from straying too far, too quickly from the norms of political power. This may be so, but some of Britain's great advances were made when a party had a comfortable enough majority to forge ahead without fear of being halted. The post-war Labor government constructed Britain's famed national health service. Thatcher with her 1983 majority of 140-plus overhauled the economy and launched her great privatization and free-markets drive. These precedents, and his huge majority, mean that Blair can afford to be as dynamic in overhauling the country as he has been in overhauling his own tired old party and turning it into a lean winning machine.

One exciting prospect for the new government is that it may at last be able to carve out a place of real influence for Britain in Europe. Under the Euro-skeptical Conservatives, Britain has been marginalized at a crucial time in the development of the EU. The election clearly demonstrated – much to almost everyone's surprise – that Europe-bashing is no longer a vote-winner in modern Britain. That alone made it time for a change, and for a new leader to chart a new course. The new Britain of the '90s may at last have got the government it deserves.

### CAPTAIN, DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING?



## The Armenian genocide

Who says things don't change – and certainly never for the better?

A week ago Saturday night, Channel 1's "News Around the World" was devoted nearly entirely to the theme of genocide in the modern world. A good part of the program, which was prepared and presented by Ya'acov Ahimeir, recently returned from a stint as Channel 1's correspondent in Washington, focused on the Armenian genocide of 1915, whose formal memorial date, April 24, comes out so close to our own Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

On that date, close to a year into World War I, in which the Ottoman Empire was allied with the Kaiser's Germany, several thousand of the intellectual, social, and business elites of the Armenian minority in the Ottoman capital, Constantinople, were rounded up and forced-marched into detention by the Ottoman authorities. That proved to be the beginning of the Armenian genocide, in which in the ensuing 18 months, about 1.5 million Armenians – at the time one-third of the Armenian people – were annihilated.

So what has changed? Over the past few years, several attempts to broadcast some relatively tame documentaries about that dismal part of 20th-century Middle Eastern history were quashed in response to pressure from the Foreign Ministry, responding to protests from the Turkish government.

Already 15 years ago, such political pressure was successful in banning a relatively innocuous Israel TV documentary on the population of the Armenian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. Years later, the Israeli Embassy in Washington used its influence with the US government and with the American Jewish community to prevent Washington from officially recognizing the Armenian tragedy, as it had earlier recognized the Jewish Holocaust.

Ahimeir told me that before he left for Washington four years ago, he had managed to air a relatively short reference to the Armenian genocide on Channel 1's news. Several weeks later, he was shown a thick file by then deputy foreign minister Yossi Beilin which contained protests against that broadcast from members of Jewish community in Turkey. The Turkish Embassy had

YOSEF GOELL

also lodged a formal protest. This time, Ahimeir told me, there has been out a peep of protest in response to his much more detailed treatment of the 1915 Armenian tragedy.

ONE of the most persuasive expressions of the connection between the Jewish and Armenian genocides hangs on the walls of

**If we want others to care about what happened to us, we must sympathize with the tragedies of others**

the Holocaust Museum in Washington. It is a quote from Adolf Hitler in 1939: "Who today remembers the massacre of the Armenian people?"

Hitler's purpose was to reassure his generals and other German officials who were somewhat uneasy over the international repercussions of the planned mass killing of Jews and other "sub-humans" in those parts of Eastern Europe that Nazi Germany was about to conquer. He was arguing that just as that mass murder had been accepted by the "civilized" world, so would it shrug off the mass killing of Jews.

The official objections to dealing openly with this issue on TV and in the schools stem from two sources: sensitivity to the developing strategic relations with Turkey, and the interest of Yad Vashem in playing down any competing historical phenomena which could possibly detract from the uniqueness of the Holocaust.

In regard to the latter, it is interesting to note that the academic expert interviewed by Ahimeir on the Armenian genocide was Prof. Yehuda Bauer, who is the head of Yad Vashem's academic advisory council. So maybe things are changing.

The Turks are indeed sensitive to any mention of this shameful aspect of their recent past. There is also no question that our developing strategic relations with Turkey are of supreme importance. We must tell the Turks that

our political and strategic relations with today's Germany, the successor to Hitler's Third Reich, have been no less important to us over the past 40 years. That has never stopped us from reminding the Germans of their responsibility for the Holocaust.

The German analogy is apt. In the ongoing struggle for the soul of modern Turkey, the modernists who are determined to adhere to Kemal Ataturk's legacy against the challenges from their own Moslem fundamentalists, are bent on Turkey's being accepted into the European Community. There is very deep opposition in Europe to Turkey's inclusion.

Learning how to openly admit historic responsibility for the Armenian genocide, which was committed by a previous despotic Turkish regime over 80 years ago, could prove to be a major argument in support of modern Turkey's "Europeanness."

The demand to perceive and teach the Holocaust as a unique occurrence in human history raises even more serious problems. It pits an age-old Jewish tendency to view hatred for the Jews as a *sui generis* phenomenon, and thus to see the Holocaust as the culmination of Jewish history in which the world has always been and will always be against us, against a more universalistic perception of the Holocaust as the most extreme expression of a tendency to genocide in our century.

The debate between these two approaches is intellectually legitimate. But preserving the memory of the Holocaust and the lessons to be learned from it is not primarily an intellectual exercise.

If we have demanded, and successfully so, that the world community preserve the memory of our tragedy, of our Holocaust, we must enter that arena of human conscience with clean hands. If we want others to care for what happened to us, we must show that we care for the tragedies of others.

This means sensitizing ourselves by means of the media, and our children through what we teach them in our schools, to the modern history of human suffering. Ya'acov Ahimeir's program on the Armenian genocide was welcome evidence of change in that direction.

The writer comments on current affairs.

## Melting pot

GWYNNE DYER

Just under three-quarters of the present American population (73.1 percent) is classified as "non-Hispanic white" by the US Census Bureau. But within 50 years, it predicts, white Americans will be barely half the population (52.8%). Some 13.6% of Americans will be black (about the same as now), Asians will double to 8.2%, and most of the rest will be "Hispanic."

The bureau is almost certainly wrong. The man who has it right is Tiger Woods, the 21-year-old golfer who electrified the US by winning the Masters tournament – and then outraged practically everybody by announcing on the Oprah Winfrey show that he does not see himself as "black," but as "Cablinasian."

It's a word that describes what may be the largest American "race" by 2050: a mixed-race group in various shades of light brown that combines the genetic heritage of most major groups on the planet. Canada promises to be an even more comprehensive mixture, and Australia and Britain are moving in the same direction.

Woods made the word "Cablinasian" up because he had no word to describe himself. His father had one white, one native Indian and two black grandparents, and his mother was half Chinese, half Thai. "Growing up, I came up with this name – I'm a Cablinasian," Woods explained – a mix of Caucasian, black, Indian, and Asian.

Old racial barriers have dropped, and racial intermarriage has taken off.

In Britain, a stunning 30% of people of West Indian origin under the age of 30 who are married or in a long-term relationship have a white partner. And public opinion supports the change: Well over two-thirds of Britons strongly disapproved of mixed marriages as recently as 1958, while now just over a quarter would object even if close relatives were involved.

The rate of intermarriage is lower among British Asians, maybe because most of them are

**Golf champion Tiger Woods represents a new breed**

Muslims, Hindus or Sikhs for whom religious differences are an extra barrier to intermarriage. But just go into the schools in big British cities and you can see the scale of the ethnic mixing that is happening – and this is in a country with only 7% foreign-born in its population.

Only 4% of US marriages are interracial, but that bald figure conceals a huge generational shift. In the '40s and '50s, less than 2% of black men married white women. In the past decade, the figure has soared to nearly 10%. And other non-white Americans, who do not suffer the special prejudice that weighs on African-American descendants of former slaves, are now "marrying out" at a staggering rate.

THERE are many previous examples of widespread racial mixing. Most people in northern India are descended from long-ago unions between Aryan (white) invaders and the darker previous inhabitants.

Many West Indian "blacks" (and most American "blacks") actually carry the genes of former slave-owners as well as former slaves.

In South Africa there is a whole people, the Coloureds, who come from the mixing of Europeans, "Malays" (actually Indonesians), the Bushman/Hottentot original inhabitants, and black Africans.

The caste system in India probably arose as a strategy for combating the racial mixing that was undermining the conquerors' cohesiveness and power. But the current phenomenon is different because the new interracial links are voluntary and equal. The most significant bit of data about the new intermarriage is this: White American women who have served in the US armed forces are seven times more likely to marry black American males than civilian white women.

In the US armed forces, almost uniquely in American society, a very large minority of blacks lives and works alongside other races in a genuinely non-racist institution. Since many blacks are long-service professionals, they also have high status.

And that is all it takes to overcome the centuries of prejudice. It was never really about color. It was always about power. People like Tiger Woods, born of inter-racial relationships in a society with egalitarian values, will not submit to being sorted by the shade of their skins. It will take another generation or two, but the old racist games are over, and the future is light brown.

The writer is a London-based freelancer.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### RECIPE FOR DISASTER

Sir, – The survival of Israel is now in the balance. From our often unhappy history, many Jews believe that Israel's survival requires continuous displays of force and armed might. This approach has not worked: not for Israel, not elsewhere. Sooner or later, history shows, it is self-defeating.

In this season of celebration of our freedom, our fellow Jews should consider the following: Israel's present "tough line" must lead to continuing disaster for future generations, Israeli and Palestinian.

Those who truly love Jerusalem

will not mind sharing its ancient places and beauty with others for whom it also has deep historical and spiritual meaning.

Remember the wisdom of King Solomon faced in Jerusalem by two women making exclusive claims to possess the one infant. Rather than destroy the child by trying to hold onto it regardless, real love was proved by a willingness to let go. The choice here is a kinder one: Not to surrender or destroy Jerusalem, only to share it lovingly.

Today, nations no longer prosper by amassing land and dominating their neighbors militarily. Not size of territory but human strength –

economic, cultural, scientific and technological – make countries like Singapore, Luxembourg and Japan internationally influential. Doesn't Israel command comparable human resources?

The fates of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples have become inseparable. However unwelcome, this fact is undeniable. For one to survive, both must – together. There is no choice other than reconciliation and compromise. An "all or nothing" stance, experience teaches, will deliver only a costly nothing.

PROF. CLIVE KESSLER  
Randwick, Australia.

#### THE KAISER IN PALESTINE

Sir, – In the *Post* of April 2, the caption under the photograph of Prince George, great-grandson of Kaiser Wilhelm II, reads that he is here to retrace the journey of the Kaiser to Palestine in 1898.

In 1898, my father, Moshe Loubman, was present when Herzl met the kaiser. My father was a student at Mikve Yisrael Agricultural School. Herzl visited the school and my father was chosen to serve him. Herzl and the kaiser talked outside the gate of the school, after which the kaiser and his retinue went to Jerusalem.

The country was hot and arid – no trees, no shade, plenty of mosquitoes, malaria and yellow fever. The kaiser told Herzl that the land would belong to the people who made it green.

And guess which people made the land green!

ZILLA GALE  
Jerusalem.

#### DEALING WITH VIPERS

Sir, – Recently, on her return from work, my wife was alerted by the dogs barking and pawing at the balcony sliding door in our Pardess Hanna home. Upon investigation, she was shocked to see a viper between the open outer sliding screen door and the balcony door. My wife identified the snake as a poisonous viper from its characteristic markings and triangular head.

She immediately called me at work for advice in dealing with the deadliest of snakes. Having been raised in the US where dangerous situations immediately galvanize the public safety sector into action, I told her to call the police. The 100 operator thereupon told her that the police did not handle matters such as this and that we were to call our local council to have them take care of the snake.

Upon calling the Pardess Hanna municipal emergency headquarters, she was advised that only for

Pardess Hanna.

### PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



This photo won David Cohen of Tel Aviv first prize in a contest to find the best picture of sunglasses. Cohen, a 31-year-old new immigrant from England, snapped this 12-year-old boy in Zamhira who assembled do-it-yourself specs from litter he scavenged. The contest was run by the Yoffi Optics company.

### POSTSCRIPTS

A BRITISH woman recently celebrated the birth of a baby boy born 22 months after his twin sister in a surrogacy arrangement which gives the children three mothers.

The twin embryos were conceived in a test tube from the same batch of eggs collected from Tricia Gunther, 41, who spent 14 years trying to have a baby by fertility treatment.

Gunther and her husband Julian found the first surrogate mother after advertising in a shop window. The woman, Teresa Finlay, gave birth in 1995 to baby Jennifer.

But Finlay was unwilling to go through another surrogate pregnancy to provide a sibling for Jennifer so the Gunthers found a second woman, Gaynor Crutchley, to carry the baby.

SOMEONE IS attacking drunks in Nicaragua with bickery-like love bites.

The dreaded "chupabolos" – "drunksucker" – preys on men who have passed out in the streets of Matagalpa, leaving hickies on various parts of their bodies.

Enraged drunks and street people in this town known for its machismo have organized a so-far unsuccessful search for the culprit who finds victims in the dark streets surrounding a local market. The number of victims was unknown.



# A Berlin rabbi's wartime tale

By RICK HAMPSON

The Holocaust and the war were over. A few young Jews walked up to the gate of a vast Jewish cemetery in Berlin, a graveyard so overgrown and cratered that it looked like a metaphor for German Jewry.

These men already had seen too much — at Auschwitz, they'd thought they'd seen the end of the world — but even they were shocked by what greeted them at the cemetery gate.

A rabbi who told them he'd lived and worked openly here through the war, who said he'd hidden Torah scrolls and sacred objects from the Nazis.

And that was why they had been called here; to dig them up. Later, as they were leaving, the rabbi urged each to take something he had unearthed. One of the men, Werner Coppel, thought of a common attitude at Auschwitz toward such holy items: "What good did they do us?" Still... he picked up a tallit. A long one, off-white with black stripes and a silver collar and fringe at the borders.

As he left with his shawl, Coppel wondered: Who is this rabbi? And why is he alive? His name was Martin Riesenburger, and he was the last rabbi of Berlin.

In the capital of the Third Reich, in the midst of the Holocaust, Riesenburger secretly tended the embers of Judaism. Acting within the law, he gave hundreds of Jews a gift that was denied millions of others — a religious burial.

Acting outside the law, and at great risk, he conducted secret services and hid sacred objects. He even erected a succa.

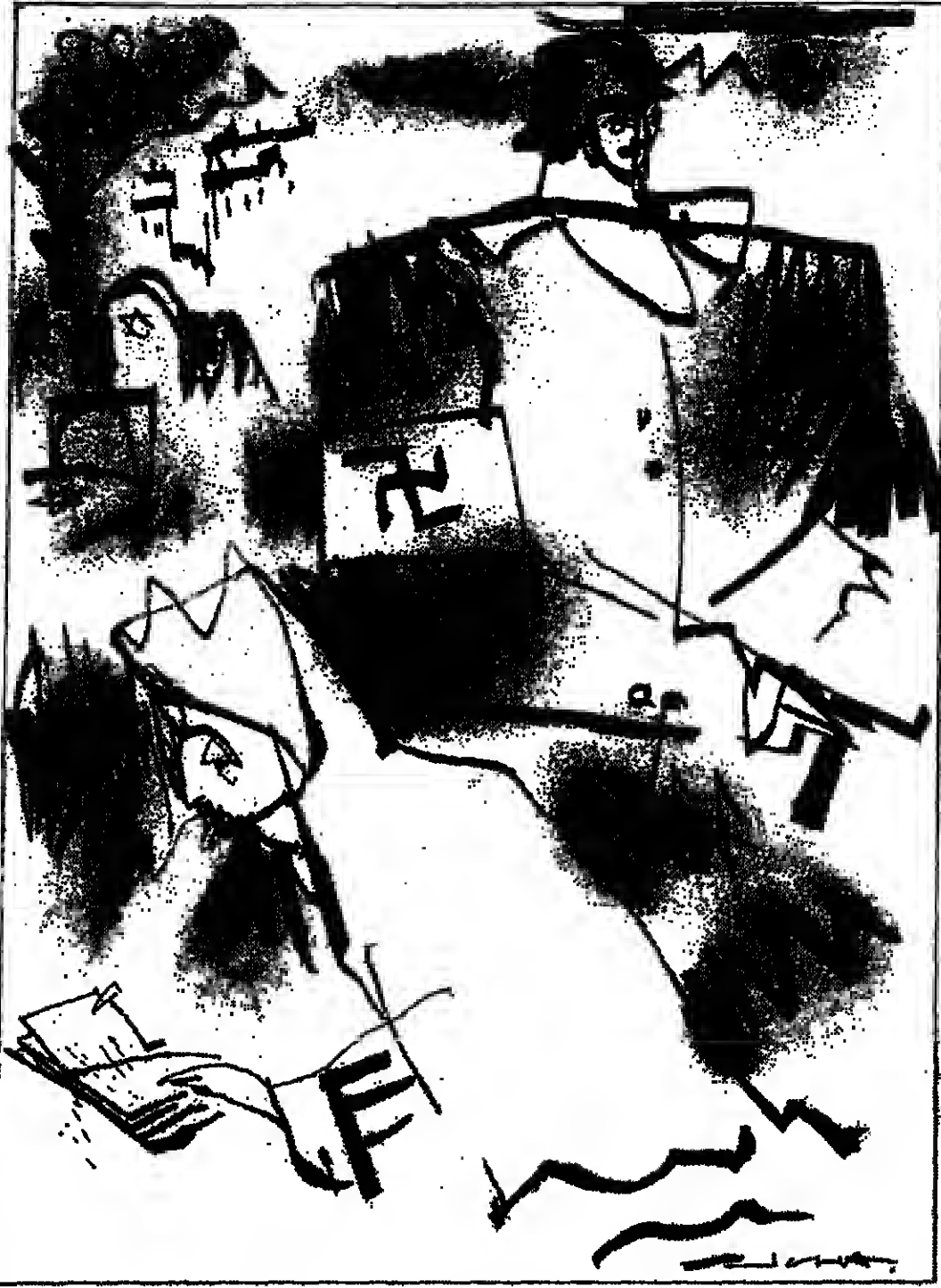
"Right under the nose of the Nazis, this rabbi gave Jews hope," says Rabbi Bernard Zlotowitz, an American scholar who is studying Riesenburger. "For this alone, he deserves our praise and gratitude." Riesenburger started out as a chaplain at Berlin's Jewish old-age home.

That was 1933, the year Hitler took power. By 1941 the destruction of German Jewry was half completed, and Riesenburger had to wear a yellow Star of David on the left side of his tallit.

But Riesenburger had a source of protection: his wife. She was born a Christian and, even though she converted to Judaism in the 1920s, under Nazi race laws she still was regarded as Aryan. As her spouse, Riesenburger, like several thousand other Berlin Jews, was initially spared deportation to a concentration camp.

In late 1942, the Gestapo announced it would close the old-age home and deport its residents. Riesenburger held a final service in the home's synagogue.

"I made a short speech, interrupted by the crying of those present," he recalled in his autobiography, *The Light that Never*



ideots. Riesenburger held a final service in the home's synagogue.

Failed. When it was over, "we all shook hands, because we could not speak." Working quickly — furniture was tossed out the windows, straw thrown on the floor — the Gestapo turned the home into a detention pen for Jews.

This was the work of Alois Brunner, an ambitious young Gestapo official who had quickly and ruthlessly deported Vienna's Jews (and is now believed to be hiding in Damascus, protected by the

Syrian government). The deportation of Berlin Jews was going too slowly, and Brunner's mission was to make the city "Judenfrei" — free of Jews. Riesenburger was arrested, taken to the old-age home and locked in the same room where

he'd once presided over a ceremony marking a couple's golden wedding. After a week he was called in to see Hauptsturmführer Brunner.

In his autobiography, Riesenburger says only that Brunner told him to resume his work and released him. Assigned to another synagogue, he held services at which Gestapo agents often outnumbered Jews. The latter realized, Riesenburger said, "it was only

a trap." In June 1943, Riesenburger secretly married a Jewish couple. He was 40, she 37. A few days later they were deported to a camp.

It was the last marriage Riesenburger performed during the war; after that, there were only funerals.

Although Berlin had been declared "Judenfrei," about 7,000 Jews still lived there. Some were underground; some were special workers; some, like Riesenburger, were married to Aryans.

When these Jews died they had to be buried. The Nazis didn't want Germans to do it, so they assigned Riesenburger to Weissensee, the largest and now the last functioning Jewish cemetery in Berlin.

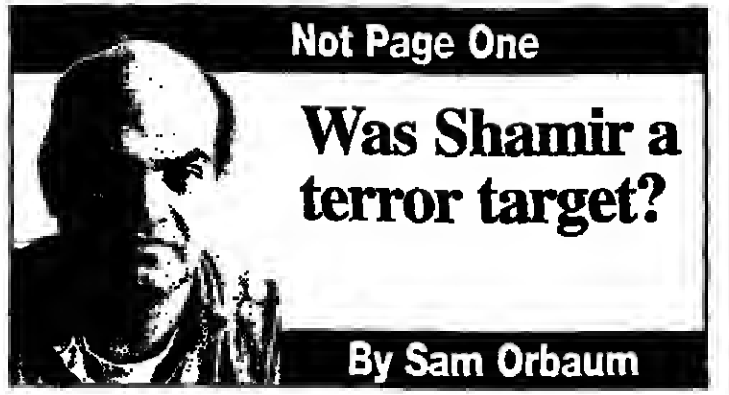
Riesenburger seems to have been appointed for two reasons: because he was protected, and because he was nobody.

"He was not a big man, a leader," recalls Marcus Saferstein, another Berliner who knew him. "If he was, they would have taken him away." And so, as millions of European Jews were incinerated like waste paper, Martin Riesenburger began giving a lucky few a decent burial.

At first, he performed several funerals each day. Many were suicides, including people who had received a summons to Gestapo headquarters. Often, remains arrived in the mail in an urn, with a return address at Auschwitz or Buchenwald. They came C.O.D.

Riesenburger prepared the body for burial, led the small funeral procession, said the prayers and played the organ. He always gave a eulogy. "He wouldn't stop talking until the last person had his handkerchief out," recalls Liselotte Clemens, who worked at the cemetery as a teenager.

"He could really squeeze the tear ducts." He did it not by mentioning current events — he never even alluded to politics — but by preaching hope, by stressing that there was something eternal that nothing could extinguish. (Reuter)



Not Page One

## Was Shamir a terror target?

By Sam Orbaum

Was Yitzhak Shamir targeted for assassination in 1993 by an Arab hit team? At the very least, a known terrorist was able to infiltrate security and get into point-blank position a meter away from the former PM.

This uneasy story could be easily dismissed and left for conspiracy theorists or Hollywood hacks to play with. But there is solid evidence that's hard to ignore, and certainly, Scotland Yard is taking it all quite seriously.

Shamir was in London on May 19, 1993, to participate in a Jerusalem Day celebration organized by Likud Herut of Great Britain at the Finchley Synagogue.

Colin Leci, a London Jew, was at the scene when Shamir arrived, and snapped a photo of the guest of honor. Almost immediately he noticed a young woman, Samar Alami, directly behind Shamir.

Leci knew her, and knew she was not exactly a member of the Shamir Fan Club. By coincidence, Leci had worked with Alami in the same department of a chemical company. When he saw her once wearing a gold pendant in the shape of a map of Israel, her political affiliations became apparent: there are not many Lebanese Zionists.

Leci greeted Alami just after taking the photo, and asked what she was doing there. She responded defensively: "The advertisement [in the *Jewish Chronicle*] stated that all were welcome." Leci quickly dispatched his son to alert the security detail, though she was allowed into the women's section of the synagogue, passing through a superficial security check.

Before the end of the ceremony, she walked out and was driven away by a waiting car. Odd... but not enough to get excited about.

Until you consider this: Alami, 31, was later arrested in connection with the July 1994 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in London and another attack, the following day, of a Jewish philanthropic organization in London.

In December 1996, she was found guilty of masterminding the operations and was sentenced to 20 years in jail. Scotland Yard eagerly snapped

up Leci's info — and photo — though he doesn't know what use they made of it.

Alright, then: let's be skeptical. If Alami had her chance to get at Shamir outside the synagogue — and she was barely a meter away from him, with no one between them — why didn't she pull the trigger then? Her getaway would have been a lot easier than from inside the crowded building.

Perhaps her cover was blown by Leci; remember, his son led the scene to alert security. Why did she enter the synagogue at all? Surely she wouldn't risk being caught with a weapon.

Even if she wasn't armed, there's room for conjecture, however wild: the ploy may have been to carry out an attack from outside, with her inside to send a signal; she, or they, may have assumed Shamir would deliver a speech from the pulpit (he didn't), and may have rigged up a bomb (with Alami holding the remote-control trigger) which failed to detonate.

She is, after all, a chemical engineer. What interest would there have been to murder a former prime minister?

Because an assault at a Zionist celebration for the reunification of Jerusalem would have been a satisfying treat for their cause; because the opportunity presented itself to kill an Israeli of stature, and security would have been less tight than for an active political figure.

Even the most skeptical rationalist would have to admit Alami was not there to throw flowers. Even if there was no murder plan, what possible interest would there be for a terrorist operative to risk attending such a non-sensitive, meaningless event? To spy? Certainly, Shamir was not expected to publicly reveal anything of strategic importance.

Even if you dismiss a murder plot as imaginative conjecture, there's a peripheral issue that can't be ignored: security was so lax around the shockingly vulnerable former prime minister that someone was able to get within arm's reach, with no one between them.

That someone happened to be a mortal enemy. It was a lesson we would later learn.

### HEADS 'N' TAILS

## Are you allergic to your pet, or is your pet allergic to you?

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Dogs and cats, as well as many other animals, including cage birds and domestic livestock, are sometimes afflicted by allergies. The symptoms of allergies in pets are similar to those seen in humans: watery eyes, sneezing, wheezing, coughing, skin irritations, digestive upsets and a variety of other symptoms.

Some of these allergies are to pollens and other natural substances, but this is not the norm.

Most pet allergies are humoral induced. Their basis is in the chemicals and other products that humans have put into the system.

Some dogs (and cats) are allergic to some of the additives that are a natural component of commercially produced kibbles.

Such a pet simply cannot eat any of the dry pet foods which are available on the market without suffering severe digestive upsets and has to have a totally different diet.

But other chemical products can also induce allergic reactions. I remember a Labrador retriever that was losing hair and scratched itself day and night. A series of veterinary consultations failed to find the reason why.

Finally, they gave the dog a steroid and the symptoms disappeared. The owner, a nurse, realized that this must be an allergy.

She tried several things and then found that the attacks were more severe every two weeks — after she had washed the dog's blanket.

She started to wash the cotton rug-blanket with a good soap and then rinsed it a second time through a

whole wash cycle without soap at all. The problem simply disappeared.

Many dogs, and even more cats, are allergic to cigarette smoke.

Some cats actually develop a clinical asthma from close association with a smoker. Passive smoke exposure also causes eye irritations and snuffles in cats.

They can also acquire allergies to cleaning materials used for food dishes and water pans. The use of polyvinylchloride dishes can make a black-nosed dog develop a brown or pink nose, as the plastic has

an effect on the pigment cells. But, by and large, one of the most terrible allergies is to the toxins of simple fleas.

In this case, it really doesn't matter whether the dog has one or 1,000 fleas; the results are the same and some dogs scratch themselves to the point where they actually flay all the flesh from half their bodies.

This is a serious matter — it can be fatal — and can only be controlled by absolute elimination of fleas and steroid treatment. Herbicides sprayed to control weeds

in gardens and in empty lots are also a problem. While a large amount of exposure to these poisonous chemicals will affect any dog or cat (or person), even a very small amount can cause severe symptoms in some animals.

Cats are especially sensitive since they not only get the amount of material that is absorbed by the skin, but, in cleaning themselves, they swallow it as well.

At this time of year it is especially important to guard against exposure to such materials.

### DEAR RUTHIE

## The dilemmas of single motherhood

By RUTHIE BLUM

Dear Ruthie, I am 38 years old. Though once married briefly in my early twenties, I have no children. My problem is that I desperately

want a child now, before it is too late, but there is no man I am interested in sharing my life with. This is a serious problem for me because I do not want to have a child on my own. I do not believe in bringing a baby into this world as a single parent. This leaves me very few options. I am in a true dilemma, and, as of yet, nobody has given me advice which has proven useful.

Yearning for Baby but not for a Sube Jerusalem Dear Yearning,

Often what we think of as a dilemma is a smoke screen we erect to cloud ambivalence of a very different sort from that which we acknowledge. You, for exam-

ple, may be ambivalent about becoming a mother altogether. Not finding any man suitable might be your unconscious method of avoiding parenthood — and, hence, of avoiding confronting that fear.

This is not to say that your desire for a child is false, but that it might be enveloped in deep-seated anxiety. Like most of us, you are probably the ably gifted at masquerading the real crux of the problem. Like most of us, you are probably involved in a tug of war between your conscious and unconscious. Also like most of us, your unconscious is a far superior player.

So, until your gut makes a decision that it is a baby you want above all else, no man will come along who is suitable. Similarly, once a genuine internal decision is made, either a man will miraculously appear, or your resistance to having a baby on your own will wane.

Dear Ruthie, I grew up in an Orthodox home in the U.S. but steered away from religion when I went to college. At

college I met my first wife — a non-Jewish woman — with whom I have a son (now grown). After becoming a physician, I fell in love with, and subsequently married, a Jewish woman I met at the hospital where I worked. She and I made a lovely team. We then had two daughters. When the girls were very young, my wife began dabbling in spiritual movements, such as EST and I Am, which began to be fashionable among her social circles. I was very opposed to her interest in these groups, and was instrumental in turning her away from them.

Now, several years later, feeling a void in my life, I have become nostalgic for my religious childhood. So I have begun to study and attend lectures at our community center on religion.

My wife is very angry, and accuses me of doing exactly what I had forbidden her to do a few years back when she was searching for spiritualism. I cannot accept considering her search and mine comparable. Will she and I be able to come to some understanding or common ground? Or is this a step

in the direction of a second divorce for me? Soul Searching Somewhere in Israel Dear Soul Searching,

Whether or not EST is irrelevant where you and your wife are concerned. The quest for spiritualism seems to be something you and she have in common, though at different stages in your lives. Apparently, she is resentful of your having (successfully) put a stop to her searching, while you later went about your own quest without consulting her.

The question of whether you will be able to reach some understanding with your wife will depend on the degree of respect you exhibit for one another's desire to explore, as well as on the extent to which one or the other of you alters his lifestyle. But only you can say whether a second divorce is in process.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For e-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

### book department

## THE POMEGRANATE PENDANT: A Historical Novel

by Dvora Waysman

This is a novel of Jerusalem, seen through the eyes of Mazal ben-Yichya — a fourteen year old newlywed in Sama'a in the year 1881, through the years in the Jewish Quarter, to the finale in 1956. The events, people and streets of Jerusalem are made real for the reader.

Harcovers, 217 pp.

**JP Price: NIS 49**

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"I closed the book reluctantly; I did not want the spell to be broken."  
Reanan Ben Dov,  
The Jerusalem Post Magazine.











ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns for company names, last price, and change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table listing international shares with columns for company names, last price, and change.

Table listing various companies with columns for last price and change.

Table listing various companies with columns for last price and change.

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WALL STREET REPORT

Budget plan boosts bonds

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average soared nearly 95 points Friday, coming within a few points of a new high, and bonds rose sharply on news of a plan to balance the federal budget.

For the week, it was up a record 332.33 points, which beat the old record of 312 points set in the week ending April 18.

Clouing the issue for analysts, however, was a stunning decline in the nation's unemployment rate to 4.9 percent, the lowest level in 23 years.

The dollar rose with the British pound against the German mark as the pound recovered from a sell-off that followed a stunning victory by Britain's Labor Party in national elections.

The blue-chip rally was more than matched by the Nasdaq Composite index, which posted its largest one-day point rise ever.

The data, which reinforced the impression of an economy that is growing at a solid clip without sparking inflation, prompted a sharp advance in economically sensitive sectors like technology and transportation stocks.

Key Representative Rates

Table showing key representative rates for US Dollar, Sterling, and Mark.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table showing New York market indexes including DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, and NYSE Index.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table showing other market indexes like FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table showing dollar crossrates for Pound, Swiss Franc, and others.

US COMMODITIES

Table showing US commodity prices for Cocoa, Coffee, and Wheat.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table showing London commodity prices for Cocoa, Coffee, and Wheat.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table showing spot market metal prices for Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table showing New York metal futures prices for Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table showing London metal fix prices for Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

FRANKFURT

Table showing Frankfurt market data for various currencies.

PARIS

Table showing Paris market data for various currencies.

ACCOR

Table showing Accor market data for various currencies.

FRANKFURT

Table showing Frankfurt market data for various currencies.

FRANKFURT

Table showing Frankfurt market data for various currencies.

WALL STREET WEEK

Stocks moving on momentum

NEW YORK (AP) - There were encouraging tidbits to be mined from the past week's pile of economic data. They were buried among all those worrisome details.

But the stock rally was largely a momentum play, with many cash-heavy portfolio managers jumping aboard simply because the market was rising.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Leading UK shares scaled new peaks, inspired by bullish Wall Street and shrugging off uncertainties created by the Labor Party's historic sweep to power.

ZURICH - Swiss shares posted their third record session in a row and for the first time ended above the important 4,900 point level in the blue-chip Swiss Market Index (SMI).

FRANKFURT

FRANKFURT - German shares edged up to a higher close after a rangebound bourse session, dulled by the fact that many market participants are away after the May Day holiday.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks surged to close at a new high for 1997, lifted by institutional investors, mostly pension funds, seeking blue-chip issues.

ISRAELI DISCOUNT BANK

Advertisement for Israeli Discount Bank with contact information and services.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table showing Israeli money market rates for various currencies and deposit rates.

CURRENCY REPORT

Low unemployment lifts dollar

NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar rallied Friday, overcoming early weakness after a Swiss central banker said he wasn't concerned about the currency's strength and the Labor Department reported the lowest US jobless rate in 24 years.

Gehrig told reporters at an appearance in Switzerland that "I'm not worried about the high dollar at all." He also said Switzerland's own weak economy made it unlikely that interest rates there will rise anytime soon.

Traders said Gehrig's remarks surprised the market and caused a sharp selloff in the Swiss franc that led to weakness in most other currencies against the dollar, reversing its decline earlier in the day.

said Bob Houck, vice president for foreign exchange at Norwest Bank Corp. in Minneapolis. "Any time you see a comment for a stronger dollar, that's just kind of a green light to buy it." The pound initially fell then rebounded in the aftermath of the Labor Party's landslide victory over the incumbent Conservatives in Britain.

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CRITIC'S CHOICE



The story of a Jewish school built on the ruins of the Lodz Ghetto in 1948 is portrayed in 'Ecole 27,' on the Family Channel at 9:20 p.m.

In commemoration of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, there will be no entertainment events listed.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Tonight, the eve of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, all local Israeli television and cable channels are dedicating their entire programming to shows on the subject. Switch to any channel and you will find a documentary on a related topic through tomorrow afternoon.

A second live follow-up broadcast of *Lost Identity* will be screened tonight at 9 on Channel 1, with the new information found on Jewish children who lost their identity during the World War II in Poland.

Louis Malle's masterpiece, *Au Revoir Les Enfants*, about the friendship between a Christian boy and a Jewish boy hiding in a Catholic school in Nazi-occupied France will be shown tonight at 10:20.



'To Speak the Unspeakeable,' about the life of Elie Wiesel, appears on the Family Channel at 6:35 p.m.

TV

CHANNEL 1

8:30 News Flash  
8:31 News in Arabic  
8:45 Exercise Time  
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Herzl and Zionism  
8:30 Destinos  
9:00 Geography  
9:20 Nature  
8:30 English  
8:45 Programs for the very young  
10:15 Social Sciences  
18:45 Arithmetic  
11:10 English  
12:00 Mathematics  
12:30 Social Sciences  
13:00 In the Heat of the Night  
14:00 Surprise Train  
14:20 Kitty Cat and Tommy  
14:35 Quentin Quack  
15:00 Pretty Butterfly

CHANNEL 1

15:00 Motormane from Mars  
15:55 Body - cartoon  
16:00 Paradise  
Therapist - a Tel Aviv schoolgirl participating in a children's opera first performed in the Theresienstadt concentration camp imagines herself as one of those children, struggling to survive  
16:59 A New Evening  
17:34 Zappy Improvisation  
18:15 News in English  
ARABIC PROGRAMS  
18:30 Designing Nature - documentary series on garden design around the world  
19:00 News in Arabic  
HEBREW PROGRAMS  
19:30 News  
20:00 The Central Ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day - live from Yad Vashem  
21:00 Lost Identity (1997) - Jewish children handed over to Gentiles for safe-keeping during the Holocaust are today seeking their true identities. In the fortnight since the first broadcast of this program both here and in Poland, new information has come to light that may help these adults find out who they really are.  
21:00 I Want to Remember, He Wants to Forget (1997) - a Macedonian Jew who lived out WWII in a small village in Albanian mountains by posing as a Moslem doctor returns to the village 50 years later with his son and reveals his secret.  
22:00 News  
22:30 World of Silence (Germany, 1995) - documentary about the massacre of the Jewish community of the Austro-Hungarian border, 10 days before the end of WWII. The attempt of the local Jewish community to locate the mass grave arouses the fears of the people of Racznice, who would prefer to forget it all. Directed by Margareta Heinrich and Eduard Erma.  
00:10 A Look at Yad Vashem

JORDAN TV

14:00 Holy Koran  
14:05 Johnny Quest  
14:30 Problem Child  
15:00 French program  
16:00 Global Family  
16:25 Energy Express  
16:50 Our World, Their World  
17:15 Clear Water, Big Fish  
18:00 French programs  
19:30 News headlines  
19:35 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air  
20:00 World Echo  
20:30 Side Effects  
21:10 Tyoons  
22:00 News in English  
22:25 Hot Shots  
23:15 Sisters - soap opera

MIDDLE EAST TV

10:30 Changed Lives  
11:00 The Hour of Power  
11:30 Hour of Power  
12:30 Central Message  
13:00 Love Worth Fighting For  
14:00 This Is Your Day  
14:30 John Osteen  
15:00 In Touch  
16:00 Show River  
18:55 America's Funniest Home Videos  
17:20 The A-Team  
18:10 Hurricane  
19:00 Lou Grant  
20:00 Remington Steele  
21:00 Hill Street Blues  
22:00 Beach Patrol  
23:00 Land's End  
00:00 Love Connection

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:15 Weekly Column  
18:15 Good Germany (1995) - documentary about the massacre of the Jewish community of the Austro-Hungarian border, 10 days before the end of WWII. The attempt of the local Jewish community to locate the mass grave arouses the fears of the people of Racznice, who would prefer to forget it all. Directed by Margareta Heinrich and Eduard Erma.  
00:10 A Look at Yad Vashem

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's programs  
6:30 Johnny Quest  
6:55 This Morning - with Rivka Michaeli  
8:30 Savora  
10:45 Dynasty (pt) 11:40 Yaron London's Parliament  
12:00 The Gentle and the Captain  
13:00 Kate and Ellie  
14:30 SportTV  
14:50 The Kids of Degasse Street  
14:30 Tic Tac  
15:00 The Finstones  
15:20 Madison  
16:00 The Bold and

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 All Together Now  
16:00 The Heart of Things  
16:30 Possible World  
17:00 Zombi Culture  
18:00 Cybarnets  
18:30 Media File  
19:00 Herzl and Zionism  
19:30 The Story of a House - after WWII, children who had

CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University - John Cager; Everybody's Business; Painters to the People  
6:00 Praises, part 5  
6:30 India Business Week  
6:30 News in Arabic  
6:30 News in Russian  
6:30 News  
6:30 Sophie's Choice (1982) - disturbing drama about a Holocaust survivor living in New York in 1967, who must justify her existence to her dead children. Oscar-winning performance from Sissy Spacek. Also with Kevin Kline. Directed by Alan J. Pakula.  
6:30 Drancy: A Concentration Camp - documentary about the French concentration camp from which 74,500 women and children were sent to Auschwitz during 1941-1944

CHANNEL 5

6:00 Open University - John Cager; Everybody's Business; Painters to the People  
6:00 Praises, part 5  
6:30 India Business Week  
6:30 News in Arabic  
6:30 News in Russian  
6:30 News  
6:30 Sophie's Choice (1982) - disturbing drama about a Holocaust survivor living in New York in 1967, who must justify her existence to her dead children. Oscar-winning performance from Sissy Spacek. Also with Kevin Kline. Directed by Alan J. Pakula.  
6:30 Drancy: A Concentration Camp - documentary about the French concentration camp from which 74,500 women and children were sent to Auschwitz during 1941-1944

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19:30	News	News	News	Alone	Return to the Warsaw Ghetto			
20:00	The Central Ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day	The Central Ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day	The Saving Cross	And Hanna's Said: To Die on Such a Beautiful Day?	Max Glick	One Survivor Recalls		
20:30	Lost Identity							
21:00								
21:30								
22:00	I Want to Remember, He Wants to Forget	Au Revoir Les Enfants						
22:30								
23:00	News							

her entire family in the Holocaust, which won the Oscar Award for best documentary.

12:00 Motorcycling: Road Racing Spanish Grand Prix - live  
12:15 Tennis: ATP Tour, Czech Republic  
12:30 Golf: Skins Game, Spain  
12:45 Mountain Bike: World Cup, Hungary  
13:00 Superstars: World Series, England  
13:15 World's Strongest Man  
13:30 Boxing  
13:45 Motorcycling: Road Racing Spanish Grand Prix  
14:00 Tennis: ATP Tour, USA

PRIME SPORTS

UNCONFIRMED

6:00 WWF Blast Off  
6:30 Asia Sport Show  
7:00 Showjumping: World Cup  
7:30 Soccer: World Cup Hall of Fame  
8:00 NBA Game of the Week  
10:30 Cricket: India Tour of West Indies  
11:30 Golf: Inside PGA Tour  
12:00 Asia Sport Show  
12:30 Water Sports: ASP World Championship  
13:00 Motorcycling: Road Racing Spanish Grand Prix - live  
16:00 Cricket: English Sunday League - live  
21:30 Cricket: India Tour of West Indies  
22:30 NBA Game of the Week (pt)  
00:30 Motorcycling: Road Racing Spanish Grand Prix  
1:30 Rugby

SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 Talking With David Frost  
7:00 Travel Xpress  
7:30 Inspiration  
10:00 Executive Lisa  
10:30 Europe A La Carte  
11:00 Travel Xpress  
12:00 Super Shop  
12:00 NBC Superstars  
13:30 Gillette World Sport  
14:00 Inside the PGA Tour  
15:00 This Week in Baseball  
15:30 Major League Baseball  
17:00 Dateline  
18:00 The McLaughlin Group  
18:30 Meet the Press  
19:30 Scan  
20:00 Europe A La Carte  
20:30 Travel Xpress  
21:00 Golf: Andersen World Championship  
22:00 Best of Tonight Show with Jay Leno  
00:00 Profiler (pt)  
1:00 Talkin' Jazz  
1:30 The Ticket  
2:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno  
3:00 Intermight Weekend

STAR PLUS

8:00 Hindi shows  
8:00 Great Escape  
8:30 India Business Week  
10:00 Living on the Edge  
10:30 Star Trek  
11:30 Hindi shows  
16:00 Anmol India Show  
16:30 Plus Preview  
17:00 Hindi shows  
19:30 Star News Sunday  
20:00 Dynasty  
21:30 India Business Week  
22:00 Star News Sunday  
23:00 State of Ark - BBC documentary  
00:00 Colonial Story (1954) - romantic drama about a love triangle. With Anne Baxter and Steve Cochran  
2:00 Firm Friends  
3:00 Nanny and the Professor

CHANNEL 5

6:00 Open University - John Cager; Everybody's Business; Painters to the People  
6:00 Praises, part 5  
6:30 India Business Week  
6:30 News in Arabic  
6:30 News in Russian  
6:30 News  
6:30 Sophie's Choice (1982) - disturbing drama about a Holocaust survivor living in New York in 1967, who must justify her existence to her dead children. Oscar-winning performance from Sissy Spacek. Also with Kevin Kline. Directed by Alan J. Pakula.  
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EUROSPORT

6:00 Open University - John Cager; Everybody's Business; Painters to the People  
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6:30 Drancy: A Concentration Camp - documentary about the French concentration camp from which 74,500 women and children were sent to Auschwitz during 1941-1944



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS  
5 A flier making childish complaint (6)  
8 Contest that is boring people (4,4)  
9 Dancer taking a step one way (7)  
10 Several dined soundly (5)  
11 Quiet technicians, but they're champions (9)  
13 Upset arising from greed and corruption (8)  
14 A supporter or two at the riverside (6)  
17 Decline to go back in a cab, begrudging the cost (3)  
19 View as the bishop's responsibility (3)  
20 One needs a jacket for a dance (6)  
23 Having arrived, turn back a worker—so high-handed (8)

DOWN  
1 Unsatisfactory tip causing disgust (6)  
2 Pull the girl up—she's so slow! (7)  
3 By retaining a note help a claimant (9)  
4 Husband's difficulty (6)  
5 Experiment underground in some laboratory (4,4)

6 Gathers pearls possibly (5)  
7 Beam in support but strand with little bastiation (8)  
12 Notice duck can give trouble (3)  
15 Eccentric once—tried to be obscure (9)  
16 "A garden is a — thing", wrote T E Brown (8)  
18 A servant named Ernie? (8)  
21 Bag some shares—act quickly (3)  
22 A person with lots of time runs (7)  
24 The umpire has to remain inside to give assistance (6)  
25 He believes he is to be entered in certain races (6)  
27 Reckoned on getting new trade (5)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 7 Cloves, 8 Bangor, 10 Ucaivil, 11 Anaul, 12 Fury, 13 Owaen, 17 Carol, 18 Wood, 22 Arise, 23 Compare, 24 Abacus, 25 Plunge.  
DOWN: 1 Scuffy, 2 Servey, 3 Leave, 4 Cabaret, 5 Agent, 8 Droll, 9 Slowcoach, 14 Careful, 15 Romania, 16 Adhered, 19 Canal, 20 Final, 21 Ample.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS  
1 Locusts (5)  
4 Culinary herb (5)  
10 Less expensive (7)  
11 Lariat (5)  
12 Jobs (5)  
13 Raise (7)  
15 Inactive (4)  
17 Strike (5)  
19 Priory (5)  
22 Sicilian volcano (4)  
25 Surrender (7)  
27 Begin (5)  
29 Correct (5)  
30 Cock (7)  
31 Embellish (5)  
32 Irrate (5)

DOWN  
2 Notions (5)  
3 Set down (7)  
5 Bisect (5)  
6 Rub (7)  
7 Intense (5)  
8 Merciless (5)  
9 Cash (5)  
14 Svelte (4)  
16 Action (4)  
18 Coped (7)  
20 Woodwind instrument (7)  
21 Twenty (5)  
23 Rips (5)  
24 Gaze (5)  
26 Consumer (5)  
28 Following (5)

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CHEN = 5282288 Dizengoff Center Metro 2:30, 5 - Jerry Maguire 2, 4:30  
Return of the Jedi 2:15, 4:45 - 101 Dalmatians 2:30, 5 - The Devil's Own 2:30, 5 - Romeo and Juliet 2:30, 5  
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# NEWS

in brief

### Israel, Czech Republic jointly issue stamps

Two stamps depicting Jewish sites in Prague have been issued by Israel and the Czech Republic. The ceremony marking the event, attended by Communications Minister Limor Livnat, Czech Ambassador Jiri Schneider, Postal Authority chairman Amos Mar-Haim and authority director-general Moshe Tery, was held at the Eretz Yisrael Museum in Tel Aviv on Thursday. One stamp shows the interior of the Altmenschul synagogue, built in 1270, while the other shows the tombstone of Rabbi Judah Loew, the Maharal of Prague. The Israeli stamps sell for NIS 1.70; the Czech stamp of the Maharal's tomb is denominated at 10 crowns and the Altmenschul stamp at 8 crowns.

Judy Siegel

### '30% of Israelis have unsuitable gas masks'

Thirty percent of residents do not have effective gas masks, Adi Eldar, chairman of the Union of Local Authorities, said on Friday. He said part of the problem is that the local stations replacing out-of-date gas masks are not operating effectively.

Eldar said that in light of reports that Syria is continuing to equip itself with non-conventional weapons, the government must make home front defense a higher priority.

Jerusalem Post Staff

### Soldier killed by stray bullet

A soldier, 20, from Kibbutz Sha'ar Ha'amakim, was killed early Friday morning on the kibbutz by a stray bullet fired by his friend, Ro'i Regev, 19, who was handling the soldier's gun. Regev, who was seriously wounded in Lebanon by a roadside bomb in late January, was remanded for seven days by Haifa Magistrate's Court on Friday.

The soldier had come to visit Regev, his neighbor on the kibbutz, while on leave from the army. While handling the M-16, Regev accidentally shot his friend in the neck. He was declared dead at the scene by Magen David Adom personnel.

Itim

### Abu Marzook gives up US residency permit

Hamas leader Moussa Abu Marzook has given up his US residency, setting the stage for his deportation to Jordan, a senior Hamas official said yesterday.

"Negotiations between Abu Marzook's lawyers and US officials have ended and we expect him to arrive in Jordan anytime," said Mohammed Nazzal, a Hamas representative to Jordan.

Earlier, Israel dropped its request for his extradition as a suspect in 10 terrorist attacks from 1990 to 1994 that killed 47 people.

AP

### Winning cards

The winning cards in Friday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance drawing were the king of spades, the eight of hearts, the nine of diamonds, and the eight of clubs.

## US: No evidence Arafat knew of World Trade Center bombing

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — The US Justice Department has dismissed a *Jerusalem Post* report alleging Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat knew in advance of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, citing a lack of evidence to back up the claim.

In a letter sent to Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter last week, Assistant Attorney-General Andrew Fois said the department "is unaware of any information that Yasser Arafat either had prior knowledge of the bombing of the World Trade Center or was in any way involved in the conspiracy to bomb the building."

The Justice Department also asked Israeli officials about Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled's claims of Israel's knowledge of Arafat's involvement, and "they [the Israelis] deny the accuracy of the statements attributed" to Peled, Fois wrote.

Specter wrote to Attorney-General Janet Reno last month

asking her to investigate the claims contained in the March 26 *Jerusalem Post* lead story. In the last Congress, Specter served as chairman of the Senate select committee on intelligence.

A senior American official said Friday that the US never put any credence in the news report and has seen no intelligence indicating Arafat was in any way involved in the plot.

The *Post* report had quoted Peled as saying Arafat "was part of the discussions on [the World Trade Center bombing] operation," and calling on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu "to give the information to the Americans, so they'll know who they're dealing with."

Peled confirmed information relayed by intelligence sources that, several days before the February 26, 1993 bombing, Arafat met with Sudanese and Islamic terrorist leaders who discussed the plot.

Peled, who is abroad, could not be reached for comment last night.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu gestures for Turkish Defense Minister Turhan Tayan to take a seat for their meeting Friday. (Reuters)

## Report: Israel gave Turkey data on the MiG-29

News agencies

Israel has shared with Turkey secret information about MiG-29 warplanes, the type used by Syria's air force, a Turkish newspaper said yesterday.

Turkey's Defense Minister Turhan Tayan denied the report.

"There is no such thing," Tayan told a news conference a day after returning from Israel. "We even did not mention a MiG." Israel Aircraft Industries is upgrading 54 Turkish F-4 Phantoms.

Tayan said Israel may also bid for a modernizing project for 48 Turkish F-5 warplanes. Tayan held talks with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem on Friday.

"Our meeting represents the tightening cooperation between Israel and Turkey in all realms and foremost in the security realm," Netanyahu was quoted by his office as saying.

According to the daily *Hurriyet*, the data will be incorporated into the planes' electronic war-

fare systems to allow them to detect the MiG-29s more easily.

*Hurriyet* said Israeli experts received the information on the Russian-made MiG-29s from a Western country, reportedly Germany.

Turkey and Israel have bolstered defense ties with a series of cooperation agreements, including a joint military training agreement heavily criticized by Iran and Arab countries.

The \$632.5 million F-4 upgrading project began two months ago.

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Tayan said he hopes Turkey's good relations with Israel will contribute to peace in the Middle East.

Tayan arrived here last Wednesday on a visit seen as a further blow to the prestige of Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, who won elections 16 months ago partly on a promise to cut military ties with Israel.

"There is room for additional cooperation primarily in the economic and security realm, such as the fight against terrorism and the preservation of stability in the region," Netanyahu was quoted as saying at the start of his talks with Tayan.

Turkey and Israel have signed defense cooperation pacts, which drew an angry response from Iran and many Arab countries. IAF planes have flown training flights in Turkey under the accords.

## Israeli, US researchers challenge AIDS infection theory

By JUDY SEGEL

An Israeli-American research team has challenged an influential US AIDS researcher and proposed a provocative new scenario of T-cell activity in HIV infection.

The analysis, by Prof. Zvi Grossman — a senior lecturer in physiology and pharmacology at Tel Aviv University and an adjunct professor of biostatistics at the University of Pittsburgh — and Dr. Ronald Herberman of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, was published in the May 1 issue of *Nature Medicine*.

The new analysis, which could suggest new methods of treatment of AIDS, surmises several novel aspects of HIV infection, including a distinct adaptive response to the virus of the body's immune system, which makes many CD4 T lymphocytes, the most vulnerable target, vari-

ably resistant to HIV infection. Grossman and Herberman also suggest that cell types other than CD4 cells play a major role in sustaining the infection, not only as additional HIV reservoirs but as part of the primary mechanism of HIV transmission among cells.

The two scientists challenge the "falling homeostasis" model proposed by Dr. David Ho, who was *Time* magazine's "Man of the Year" for 1996. Ho's theory was developed in 1995, when antiviral drugs were effectively used to block continued HIV infection of cells in patients; Ho explained the subsequent rise of CD4 cells as existing before the treatment and that after treatment, it exceeded cell loss. Based on this interpretation, scientists estimated a rapid turnover rate of CD4 cells before treatment.

But Grossman and Herberman claim the reasoning behind "falling homeostasis" is unsound, in that the turnover of CD4 cells need not be considered unusual. This reflects an adaptive response, they wrote, rather than simply being the result of cell depletion.

## Regional radio pans IBA competition

By HELEN KAYE

Defending its turf, the Second Television and Radio Authority (STRA) has complained to the Prime Minister's Office, requesting the immediate closure of Kol Hanegev (106.3FM), which it terms a pirate regional radio station. The station operates with help from the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

STRA general manager Nahman Shai said that the station represents "a severe blow to the commercial regional radio network, which the law charged us to establish."

Shai further said that Kol Hanegev, which is operated out of the Sha'ar Hanegev regional school and college, will cut into the income and audience share of the STRA's Radio Darom, which serves the northern Negev.

"It is really idiotic to suggest that we are threatening anybody in any way," said Sha'ar Hanegev Regional Council head Shai Hermesh, "and if it arouses Nahman Shai's jealousy, so be it."

The council funds the station, which is part of the college's communications degree program. "but we also have classes for fourth and fifth graders, all the way up to

12th grade," said Hermesh. The station's transmitters and frequency come from the IBA. It broadcasts actively only during school hours; during other times, the frequency is used by Israel Radio's Reshet Bet.

It is purely an educational tool, Hermesh insisted. It has no advertising "and its quarter-kilowatt transmitter gives it a 20-30 kilometer radius. Some threat!"

Kol Hanegev is one of four such stations approved three years ago by former communications minister Shulamit Aloni "whn bought our idea of educational radio on the periphery," Hermesh said.

But Radin Darom general manager Danny Yosub said that "the IBA has disguised the station as an educational tool." Since it opened in January 1996, Radin Darom has garnered 18% of the listening audience and its advertising slots — 216 minutes per 24 hours — are full.

This is not the first time that STRA has clashed with the IBA. It contends that the IBA-operated commercial stations Kol Haderch in the Dan region and Hagal Habatnah in the North contravene the spirit, if not the letter, of the law.

### WEATHER

Haifa 14-19  
Tel Aviv 14-20  
Jerusalem 9-16  
Beer Sheva 12-21  
Eilat 22-30

Forecast: Partly cloudy, further decline in temperatures.

### AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	COND	WIND
Amsterdam	09	16	08	clear
Bahia	07	14	20	partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	16	04	24	clear
Calcutta	03	08	20	clear
Chicago	06	13	24	clear
Copenhagen	06	13	24	clear
Frankfurt	06	13	24	clear
Geneva	10	17	24	clear
Helsinki	02	09	28	clear
Hong Kong	20	28	28	cloudy
London	12	19	24	clear
Los Angeles	14	21	27	clear
Madrid	14	21	27	clear
Moscow	09	16	24	clear
Mumbai	11	18	27	clear
Paris	11	18	27	clear
Rome	11	18	27	clear
Sydney	16	23	24	clear
Tokyo	16	23	24	clear
Toronto	04	11	18	clear
Warsaw	04	11	18	clear
Zurich	06	13	24	clear

## Sandstorms in Egypt kill 22

News agencies

CAIRO — At least 22 people, including a three-year-old child, died when sandstorms hit Egypt over the weekend.

On Friday, the strongest sandstorm in 30 years hit the country, and 18 people died in accidents, ranging from fallen trees to collapsed walls. Another sandstorm blew in from the Libyan desert yesterday, blinding drivers and killing at least four people in southern Egypt.

Both storms packed winds of over 100 kilometers per hour.

According to an Interior Ministry statement, 12 provinces were affected by Friday's storm, which sparked fires by downing electricity cables and ripped street billboards off their posts. A farmer was crushed by a fallen mulberry tree in his fields.

"I thought it was the Day of Judgment," an old man told the Egyptian newspaper *Akhbar al-Yom*.

The storm disrupted air traffic at Cairo International Airport and plunged Cairo into darkness for about an hour.

In yesterday's storm, the winds blew sand through Sobag, a provincial town 390 kilometers south of Cairo.

A police officer was killed when his car overturned. Elsewhere in the city, two cars collided on a highway, killing three people and injuring two, police said.

Fourteen people were injured in Sobag by falling trees, electricity pylons and other heavy objects, police said.

The winds forced flights to divert from the airport in Luxor, one of Egypt's top tourist destinations, about 115 kilometers south of Sobag.

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